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New year celebrations in Sydney, with the Opera House and the Harbour Bridge outlined by a £72,000 firework display set off from cranes and barges and cued to music

I will not cut and
run, vows MajorBY PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN MAJOR last night accused the latest Tory defector of "cutting and running" as the Conservative high command tried to head off the danger of further desertions with pledges to uphold the values of one nation Conservatism.

The Prime Minister, in his first comments on the decision of Emma Nicholson to join the Liberal Democrats, reducing his parliamentary majority to three, underlined his determination to fight on into 1997.

In a conversation with Brian Mawhinney, his party chairman, he promised that he would push on "through hell or high water" in spite of

the new threat to the Government's survival.

Last night Mr Major delivered a bitter attack on Miss Nicholson, whose Friday night announcement torpedoed the Government's new year counter-attack against Labour.

Writing in *The Sun* Mr Major said: "It is easy to cut and run when hard decisions have to be made, as we have seen with the defection of one MP in the last couple of days. It is sad when people cannot see through commitments they have personally made to their electorate just a few years ago. But that will not deflect me from seeing through my commitments to the end."

At the same time Mr Major issued a defiantly upbeat

message to the Conservative Party. He warned them that a Labour Government would "weaken, divide and wreck Britain". He declared that in 1996 more of Britain's success would feed through into people's pockets.

He heralded a "triple gold" — homeowners enjoying the lowest mortgage costs for a generation, families seeing a big increase in their spending power after tax changes and inflation, and people benefiting from extra expenditure on schools, hospitals and police.

Britain had earned the right to look forward with confidence, optimism and hope, he said. Mr Major's message was written before the Nicholson defection and Conservative sources said that he had not

changed it as a result of her decision.

After a day in which the Liberal Democrats and a senior Tory MP suggested that others might follow Miss Nicholson, sources highlighted passages that reflected Mr Major's commitment to one nation Toryism.

He wrote to constituency chairmen: "We must not rest until all our children are taught in schools where high standards and honest values go hand in hand... We must maintain and improve our public services. We must promote our beliefs abroad as resolutely as we cherish them at home."

A succession of Tories seized on Miss Nicholson's departure to warn Mr Major that he must not abandon the centre ground.

Miss Nicholson pinpointed the alleged departure from one nation principles as the reason for so many MPs deciding to stand down at the next election. She said: "We just can't stand the bashing of people of different colours and creeds, minorities and single parents, somebody who just doesn't happen to be a white, Anglo-Saxon, male, protestant, Member of Parliament."

Senior Tories were coming to terms with the prospect of their Commons majority disappearing this year. There are no immediate signs of any further defections but they cannot be ruled out. The death of one or two Tory MPs could mean that the majority will go.

William Rees-Mogg, page 14
Leading article, page 15

Royal gift
to head's
memorial

The Queen has made a "substantial" personal donation to the memorial fund for the murdered headmaster Philip Lawrence.

The contribution, for an undisclosed amount, was revealed last night by Harry Greenway, Conservative MP for Ealing and a fund trustee. He said Mr Lawrence's widow Frances and the couple's four children were "grateful and delighted" at the gesture.

The Times on
the Internet

The Times is available from today on the Internet, the worldwide system of interlinked computers. Our pages can be found on <http://www.the-times.co.uk>. Our sister paper *The Sunday Times* will be available from January 7. Pages 4, 15



Bill Clinton, who is showing such political resilience that he is clear favourite to become only the third Democratic President to win re-election since the Civil War. He has a long lead over Robert Dole, his likely Republican opponent... Page 7

Shepherd
to address
union
militantsBY JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

GILLIAN SHEPARD is to confront classroom militants head on by becoming the first Education Secretary for 16 years to address the annual conference of the National Union of Teachers.

The invitation accepted by Mrs Shepherd represents a victory for moderates trying to wrest control of the union from leftwingers who dominate the policy-making conference. Activists are predicting disruption and officials expect to step up security for the conference in Cardiff over the Easter weekend.

Last Easter, there were ugly scenes when David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, arrived to speak at a fringe meeting. He was harangued by far-left demonstrators and had to take refuge in a locked office for almost half an hour.

However, Mr Blunkett will be returning to address the full conference this year. Mrs Shepherd spoke at all the other classroom unions last year without incident.

Bernard Regan, a leftwinger on the NUT executive, said: "I should have thought there will be pretty overwhelming opposition to Mrs Shepherd's views. How the delegates will express it, I do not know, but I would have thought there will be some expression of concern and anger."

The executive approved the invitation by a narrow majority in the teeth of militant opposition. The education spokesmen of Plaid Cymru and the Liberal Democrats have also been invited to speak on different days.

Defecting MP 'punched'

BY PETER RIDDELL

EMMA NICHOLSON, the former Tory MP who has defected to the Liberal Democrats, claims she was hit in the stomach by a Conservative MP in the Commons after she voted for disclosure of members' outside earnings from parliamentary activities.

In an interview with *The Times*, she says the personal hostility of Tory MPs and party whips to her views on Nolan was one reason why she decided to cross the floor.

Miss Nicholson says she faced "intolerable" abuse for her belief in greater transparency. When she gave evidence to the Nolan inquiry, a Tory

whip told her she had "betrayed" her colleagues.

On November 6 she was one of two dozen Tory MPs to vote for disclosure, and immediately after leaving the division lobby another member gave her "a sharp blow in the stomach". She refuses to say who hit her and whether it was a man or a woman.

Miss Nicholson says she faced an "onslaught" by colleagues complaining they faced "a substantial loss of income because of me". What the whips said afterwards was "unprintable". She also objected to John Major and the Tory whips "bearing down on those

of us who wanted to support, on a free vote, transparency on additional earnings from in-house income". The pressures were "almost unendurable".

She also complains about "disgusting locker-room insults" by male Tory MPs about Labour women members, including frontbenchers.

Her objections to government pressure over Nolan coincided with other worries. She cites government policy on Europe, single mothers, the handcuffing of women prisoners, cuts in overseas aid and the new asylum Bill.

She discloses that, after the

Continued on page 2, col 1

Genghis Khan is chosen Man of the Millennium

FROM IAN BRODIE
IN WASHINGTON

TONGUE planted firmly in cheek, *The Washington Post* yesterday cast aside any shilly-shallying about naming the man of the year, decade or century and went boldly instead for its Man of the Millennium.

The paper conceded that the 13th Century Mongol conqueror "embodied the half-civilised, half-savage quality of

the human race". But look at his achievements: although he died at 60, his empire stretched from the Pacific to Eastern Europe and from Siberia to the Persian Gulf. Slaughter unparalleled for its day made it so.

Among those rejected by the *Post* for the millennium honour were Columbus ("somewhat boring") and Queen Victoria, who also knew a thing or two about building empires.

This could be the start of a painful game or a subject of idle speculation

from now until, well, the next millennium. The newspaper carried a list of other categories. Among them: Greatest Time and Place of the Millennium: Titian's Venice. Runners-up: New York in the 40s, Paris in the 20s, and Elizabethan England.

Greatest Book: Samuel Johnson's *Dictionary of the English Language*. Greatest Invention: the printing press. Greatest Painting: Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel ceiling. Greatest Scientist: Albert Einstein, beating Edison and

Copernicus. Greatest Genius: Shakespeare. No runner-up considered. Greatest Musical Composition: Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*.

Greatest Singer: Enrico Caruso. Most Evil Person: Adolf Hitler ("we simply had no choice"). In this last category, Genghis Khan must have come close. As the compilers admitted, their Man of the Millennium was not the most benevolent person of his age, nor the deepest thinker, nor the greatest liberator; he was a thug.

How Wilson
pioneered
the political
soundbite

BY NIGEL WILLIAMSON

THE political soundbite was invented for Harold Wilson more than 30 years ago by a professional speaking coach who told him to cut down his rhetorical flourishes.

Secret Cabinet papers released today under the 30-year rule show that long before an army of image-makers and style consultants made such advice de rigueur, Wilson was told by a voice tutor to keep it short, sharp and avoid the flights of oratory beloved of political speakers from Mark Antony to Michael Foot.

The unsung pioneer was Cicely Berry, later to become voice coach at the Royal Shakespeare Company, a post she held for 25 years. In a piece of advice that could easily have been written by style-guru Peter Mandelson for the present Labour leader, she told Wilson: "There is a tendency to get into a cadence on a long speech and this lessens the appreciation of the content." Wilson was also told "to keep a colloquial rhythm and only let it brighten into rhetorical 'sing' at moments."

Armed with such sage advice, Wilson went on to become famous for his relaxed, avuncular television broadcasts in marked contrast to the stilted appearances of Edward Heath, then Tory leader.

Ms Berry was recruited to boost Wilson's television image in 1965. In a six-point action plan, she told Wilson to sharpen his diction. A "lack of muscularity in lips and tongue" meant his words carried insufficient edge. Wilson was also told to relax his tense shoulders since it showed "a slight lack of confidence".

Speaking from her home near Stratford-upon-Avon at the weekend, Ms Berry, who later worked with Neil Kin-

nock and Prince Charles, said: "I'm astonished anyone remembers my advice."

Yet, she is not completely happy to be cast as midwife to the soundbite. "It has gone too far. The soundbite, I am sorry to say, is destroying democratic debate." Perhaps, unsurprisingly, she rates none of the current practitioners of the art. The best political speaker of all, to her, was Martin Luther King.

Ms Berry had some advice

FACES OF 65



Model Jean Shrimpton: short skirt raised eyebrows at the races



PM Harold Wilson: wanted to send British troops to Vietnam



Star Dusty Springfield: expelled from South Africa after concert

for the present leaders. John Major should "try reading some poetry aloud and learn its music. He has no sense of the music of words, no feel. It's nothing to do with education, he just has no poetry."

Tony Blair she said, needs to learn the value of the dramatic pause. "He's at us all the time, instead of giving us a moment to think, a moment to allow us to come to him."

Gallows and bezes, page 6

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THE
HABIT

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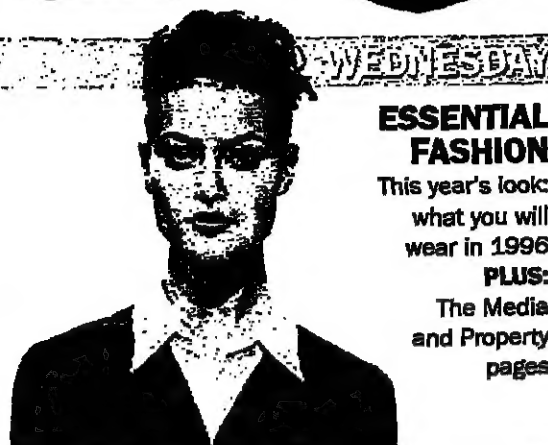
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THIS WEEK IN THE TIMES

TUESDAY

PLAY TO WIN
£50,000See how your
Interactive
Team Football
players are
performing
PLUS:
Libby Purves and
Nigella Lawson

THE TIMES

ITF
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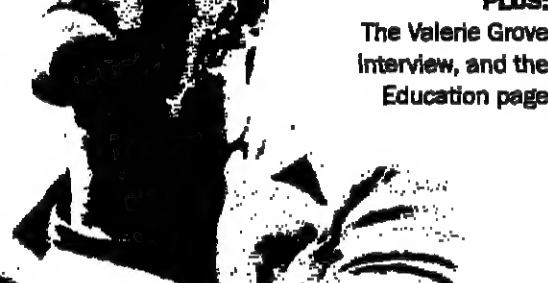
This year's look:
what you will
wear in 1996
PLUS:
The Media
and Property
pages

WEDNESDAY

FILMS OF THE WEEK

The Horseman on the Roof,
France's most expensive film
PLUS: Books, Health and
Travel News

THURSDAY

This year's sound: who
you will buy in 1996
PLUS:
The Valerie Grove
Interview, and the
Education page

FRIDAY

SAILING

Falling in love with a racy lady, in Weekend
PLUS:
Magazine:
special travel
issueEVERY DAY THIS WEEK: TWO BLOOMSBURY
BOOKS FOR THE PRICE OF ONE

Hints of more defectors, but all suspects say: 'Not me'

Tory moderates tell Major to stop pandering to the Right

BY PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR

LEADERS of the Conservative centre-left told John Major yesterday that there must be no more "pandering" to the Right if he wanted to avoid further defections in the coming year.

But despite a prediction from one left-wing Tory that six or seven others could leave, there was no immediate sign of potential defectors to follow the paths of Emma Nicholson or Alan Howarth.

Peter Temple-Morris, MP for Leominster and chairman of the Macleod group, the leading parliamentary centre-left grouping, said the defections indicated a "serious state of unhappiness in the centre-left of the Conservative Party".

He went on: "It is up to the leadership by its actions and rhetoric to recognise this and the fact that the party must be kept united with due consideration for both its wings, not just one of them."

As the media and the Conservative whips scanned their lists of MPs for potential defectors, the name most frequently canvassed was Hugh Dykes, MP for Harrow East, who rebelled in the fishing vote before Christmas because of the Government's allegedly negative attitude at the Madrid summit.

Indeed it was Mr Dykes who predicted, during an interview with *The World This Week* on Radio 4, that there were "six or seven potentially who will move away unless the Government returns to the moderate centre".

However, he made plain that he was not one of them. He said that he was a lifelong Tory who intended to stay and fight for the right policies. That appeared to be the view of the majority of pro-European Tory MPs, several of whom are retiring at the next election.

Another name mentioned by some Liberal Democrat sources was Robert Hicks, MP for Cornwall South East, who has long been uneasy about the Government's European stance. Mr Hicks was in Port Elizabeth at the weekend watching cricket. Close friends of the MP, who is standing down at the election, said he would never leave the party.

Other names being floated were Sir David Knox, MP for Staffordshire Moorlands, and Sir Jim Lester, MP for Bromsgrove. But their friends made plain there was no chance of them leaving the Tories. Sir Jim said in a BBC interview that the Right had made the most noise, but the intellectual case for One Nation Toryism had not been lost and it was all the more important to stay and put the case.

Conservative MPs forecast that any other defectors would almost certainly be surprise names. One said: "If there is another, it will be an oddball — someone we had not thought of."



Emma Nicholson at home yesterday: one rebel claimed that "six or seven" others could follow her resolve

Collapse from within poses biggest threat to survival of Government

BY PHILIP WEBSTER

TORY MPs agreed yesterday that growing disintegration within the party, rather than the loss of its majority, was the biggest threat to John Major's intention of delaying the general election until 1997.

Whatever happens over the next few months, the Conservatives will remain by far the largest party in Parliament. The disappearance of the majority, if it happens, will not in itself mean that an election is certain.

Governments can survive for long periods without an overall majority provided there is a lack of unanimity among the various opposition parties over a proposition that they should be brought down.

The Government is now virtually reconciled to suffering more defeats over the coming year. But it is only if, following one of those defeats, Tony Blair tables a confidence motion and the opposition parties unite to beat the Government that an election will be called.

Emma Nicholson's defection, increasing the Liberal Democrat tally of MPs to 25 and reducing the Tories to 324, strictly cuts the Government's majority to three. If Sir Richard Body, the last of the whipless Euro-rebels, is counted inside, the figure is five. The Government is almost certain to lose the two pending by-elections in Hemsforth and Staffordshire South-East,

reducing the strict majority to one, or three if Sir Richard is on board.

Thus the death of one or two Tory MPs this year, an actual likelihood, or another defection or two would wipe out the majority.

Labour will clearly seek any opportunity to make the Government look incapable of governing. In the first months of the year it is to table a Commons motion opposing rail privatisation. If the handful of Tory rail rebels find themselves unable to support the Government it will be defeated and a key plank of government strategy will be in jeopardy.

However, the Government will still be likely to retain its slender Commons majority at that stage. A confidence motion would be defeated and would rally the Tories for a short time.

For Tony Blair the best time to table a confidence motion is clearly when the Government's majority has gone. At that point the nine Ulster Unionists would have to decide whether they wanted to pull the plug.

Knowing that it could be months before the Government finally loses its majority, Labour is therefore counting on continuing disarray within the ruling party to bring forward the date of an election.

Ministers know that they



The figures do not include the speaker, 3 deputy speakers and two vacant seats

have to negotiate the man-traps of the two by-elections. May's local elections when the Tories will be defending 1,000 seats and a strong showing in the equivalent poll four years ago, and the Scott report in the coming months.

If the Government's position, and the morale of its

crucial phase in the peace process, which includes the publication of the Mitchell report on arms decommissioning this month, if the Government weakens its position on the arms issue and makes further concessions to Sinn Féin, the relatively warm atmosphere between the Ulster Unionists and the Government could quickly dissipate.

If Labour tables a no-confidence motion, attention will focus on the nine UUP MPs, who can be expected to back the position adopted by Mr Trimble and Mr Taylor, despite significant differences between the individual MPs.

Taylor would support Tories in confidence vote

Navy on patrol as Spanish boats fish

A lone Royal Navy fishery protection vessel will be on patrol in the controversial Irish Box waters this morning as the prime fishing area is opened for the first time to the Spanish fishing fleet. Spain has already sent the names of 20 vessels which intend to fish in the area between southern Ireland and the British and Welsh coasts, known by the Spanish fishing community as *El Box*. A maximum of 40 Spanish vessels are allowed in the 92,000 square mile Irish Box at one time under an agreement which has enraged British fishermen, particularly in the West Country, worried about stock levels.

Stabbing charges

Police have charged a 22-year-old man with 10 attempted murders after shoppers and staff at a supermarket were stabbed on Friday. The man, a part-time employee at the Netto supermarket at Bordesley Green, Birmingham, will appear before magistrates today. He is also charged with attempting to wound two police officers. Five people are in hospital with stab wounds, including a 65-year-old man whose condition is serious.

Coach ban starts

Coaches are to be banned from the outside lane of motorways from today in a two-year trial that has enraged the coach industry. The ban is in response to a European Commission directive which requires most buses and coaches to be fitted with speed limiters, restricting their maximum speed to 55mph. Coach operators say that since the journeys will take longer, more fuel will be used and fares will have to increase.

Chess prodigy



Luke McShane, 11, above, became the youngest British player to defeat a chess grandmaster in a formal tournament. He now leads the challengers' section of the tournament in Hastings, East Sussex, with a 100 per cent score. Luke was recognised as an outstanding talent at the age of five by the London Chess Centre in Clapham, south London. In 1992 he won the world championship for under-10s.

Match report, page 27

Passengers hurt

Three passengers were injured when a train from Reading crashed into the buffers at Paddington station, west London. One passenger had whiplash injuries and two others suffered from shock. They were treated at St Mary's Hospital near by, but were not badly hurt. The crash disrupted London Underground services and the Hammersmith and City line was closed for a few hours while rail staff carried out safety checks.

State security

A sophisticated new surveillance system is being installed to boost security during state occasions, such as *Trooping the Colour*, it was disclosed yesterday. Work to install the equipment in a security control room at Horse Guards Parade in central London is well under way. The system will be linked to television cameras positioned at strategic monitoring points in the area.

Lovers can claim

Unmarried partners will be able to claim a share of their dead lover's estate under new legal rights for cohabitants that come into force today. The Law Reform (Succession) Act brings in a range of reforms to clarify the law on wills and inheritance in line with two Law Commission reports. A Church of England report last year estimated that by the end of the century four couples in five would be unmarried.

Ulster Unionists pledge to avert threat of an early election

BY NICHOLAS WATT
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE Ulster Unionists would support John Major if Labour tabled a motion of confidence in the Government in the near future, John Taylor, the party's deputy leader, said yesterday.

The MP for Strangford said that Ulster Unionists had no reason to bring about an early general election. "So long as the Government acts in the interests of the United Kingdom, and in particular Northern Ireland, we would not precipitate an early general election ... at

the moment, the Government is trying its best," Mr Taylor said.

Mr Taylor will be encouraged that some of Mr Taylor's comments were echoed yesterday by Peter Robinson, the deputy leader of the Democratic Unionists, who is normally a staunch critic of the Government. The MP for East Belfast said that the DUP's three MPs would sustain the Government in power if the Government committed itself to establishing an elected convention in Northern Ireland.

Mr Robinson added that if ministers shied away from backing the assembly by the time of a no-

confidence vote, the DUP would not support the Government. However, the MP said he had been encouraged by the warm reception the Government had given to Unionist proposals for an assembly, which were mentioned in November's Anglo-Irish communiqué.

The comments from both MPs underlined the delicate game Unionists will play as the government majority dwindles. Unionists will not want to terminate the Government's life prematurely because they are acutely aware that as Mr Taylor's position weakens their leverage over the Government will increase. They

also know that Labour, which has supported Mr Taylor's Northern Ireland policy, would adopt a similar position in Government.

Relations between David Trimble, the UUP's leader, and John Major are also reasonably cordial. Mr Trimble, who made no secret of his anger with the Government when he was elected leader last September, has since been greatly encouraged by Mr Taylor's warm response to his proposal to establish an elected assembly in Northern Ireland.

However, Mr Trimble will not want the Prime Minister to take his support for granted during the next

crucial phase in the peace process, which includes the publication of the Mitchell report on arms decommissioning this month. If the Government weakens its position on the arms issue and makes further concessions to Sinn Féin, the relatively warm atmosphere between the Ulster Unionists and the Government could quickly dissipate.

If Labour tables a no-confidence motion, attention will focus on the nine UUP MPs, who can be expected to back the position adopted by Mr Trimble and Mr Taylor, despite significant differences between the individual MPs.



Taylor would support Tories in confidence vote

Defecting MP 'punched'

Continued from page 1
rightwing speeches at earlier Tory party conferences, she "actively didn't want to go" to the Blackpool conference three months ago. She compares the anti-Brussels speech made then by Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, with what was being said in Nazi Germany in 1937.

It took just over three weeks from her initial semi-joking contact with Nick Harvey, the Liberal Democrat for North Devon, late at night in the Commons, to her announcement on Friday. It involved contacts via various intermediaries, then a series of secret meetings.

These were first with Lord Home of Cheltenham, the party's longstanding behind-the-scenes fixer, to gauge how serious she was about changing party and how comfortable she would be with the Liberal Democrats, the Tories'

main enemy in the West Country, then with Paddy Ashdown, the party leader, in Devon on the Friday before Christmas and in London last Wednesday.

She informed the Prime Minister and the officers of her local association in Devon West and Torridge just before the planned interview with Robin Oakley, the BBC's political editor, last Friday.

A crisis meeting of the officers of Devon West and Torridge Conservative Association was due to take place today.

Photographs of the MP have already been removed from the association buildings, but officers have decided not to incur any costs by reprinting their stationery.

Margaret Taylor, the chairman of the association, said: "A simple pen stroke through her name will do."

Dame Margaret Fry, the

association president who worked with the MP for three years at Conservative Central office, said: "I received a fax only 10 minutes before she went live on the news. I was baffled. It thanked me for my hard work. Then I got a phone call from the chairman."

"I sensed that there was dissatisfaction. But right until a few days ago she was defending the government line and pledging that she would stand again. We feel so let down. She said that she hoped the friendship could continue. We will have to see."

Miss Nicholson antagonised her supporters in 1990 by joining the Michael Heseltine leadership campaign against Margaret Thatcher. "Some thought she should have been deselected then," Dame Margaret said.

Peter Riddell, page 14
Letters, page 15

Tories advertise for election victory

BY PHILIP WEBSTER

WHICH COUNTRY...

- has the lowest mortgage rates for 30 years,
- has the lowest basic rate of tax for over 30 years,
- has the lowest unemployment of any major European country,
- has the longest period of low inflation for 30 years,
- has the majority of Europe's most profitable companies,
- is now selling more goods and services abroad than ever before,
- and has seen the fewest days lost in strikes since records began?

OUR COUNTRY.

The Tory party's advert in yesterday's papers

JOHN MAJOR is to call on Maurice Saatchi and other image gurus of the Thatcher years to help him in his attempt to gain re-election. Advertisements placed in yesterday's newspapers to mark the start of a new year campaign to spell out the Tory record of achievements were inspired by Downing Street, but were the work of Mr Saatchi, whose old Saatchi & Saatchi agency served the Tories in successive winning campaigns.

Brian Mawhinney, the Conservative Party Chairman, will also call on the expertise of Sir Tim Bell and Peter Gummer, brother of the Environment Secretary John, to make presentations in the campaign. Party sources say the advertisements put across the party's case in a straightforward way. Michael Hes-

eltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, is a strong supporter of the plan.

He has complained that the media has been obsessed with the Government's internal troubles and has failed to put across its achievements.

Yesterday's adverts, signed by Mr Major, emphasise among other things that Britain has the lowest mortgage rates for 30 years, the lowest basic rate of tax for 30 years, the lowest unemployment of any major European country and the longest period of low inflation for 30 years.

Mr Major repeated these assertions in his new year message to Tory party chairmen last night.

No decision on the party's advertising account has been taken by Mr Mawhinney, who wants to be able to call on as much talent as possible.

Bishops condemn 'grotesque' £33m Lottery jackpot

By Andrew Pierce

A RECORD £33 million Lottery jackpot for next weekend was condemned as grotesque yesterday by senior churchmen. Radical changes to the system will be proposed by Labour at the end of the month.

A former Tory Cabinet minister joined critics and said that the Lottery had turned from a vote winner into a vote loser for the Government.

The top prize has been "rolled over" for a second week after nobody picked Saturday's winning numbers. The dispute intensified as it emerged that Labour's heritage team is engaged in a comprehensive review which may lead to a party pledge to install a non-profit operator when Camelot's seven-year contract expires. A senior Labour party source said: "The central issue is whether the Lottery should be profit-making. There is concern over the size of Camelot's profits."

When Camelot was awarded the licence, it projected it would not make a profit for several years. In November,

The Archbishop of Canterbury urged people to add making time for God to their new year's resolutions. Dr George Carey said that there was now a "real spiritual yearning" but "if we want to discover the answers we are searching for, we need to make time to pray and to seek the Lord to spend time with".

however, it announced a £23.6 million post-tax profit for 24 weeks to September 16. Labour MPs said the figure was excessive. Ministers in turn accused the Opposition of being the enemy of profit.

The Labour review is also examining the distribution of money to needy causes, the role of Peter Davis, the regulator, and whether there should be a ceiling on prizes.

The Bishop of Wakefield, the Right Rev Nigel McCulloch, said that next week's record jackpot was obscene. "It can totally destroy lives and bring misery. People gamble beyond their means"

encourages people to gamble beyond their means." He urged an all-party commission to examine the effects of the Lottery.

The Bishop of Worcester, the Right Rev Philip Goodrich, said: "The £33 million prize is grotesque. It is a great pity that the Lottery has become such a central feature of everyday life. Generally, we are putting too much money into private pockets when we should be doing more for people in need."

The Rev Bill Wallace, convener of the Church of Scotland's Board of Social Responsibility, said: "It is appealing to people's greed and we don't think it's the sort of thing government and big business should be involved in." The Church of Scotland is opposed to the Lottery on principle and its ruling general assembly has decided not to apply for funds.

Gamblers' Anonymous said yesterday that it has received 17.5 per cent more calls for assistance since the National Lottery began. Lord St John of Fawley, a former arts minister and chairman of the Royal Fine Art Commission, said: "Only this country could turn what could be a great national asset into a continuing and embarrassing disaster. There must be a root and branch review of all aspects of the Lottery."

"Is £1 million not enough? We are worshipping the golden calf. The National Lottery has become an extraordinary liability for the Government."

Millions of extra tickets are expected to be sold for the Lottery this week. If there is no winner on Saturday, there can be one further "roll over" before the prize is distributed to the next level of winners.

Winning numbers, page 18



Bishop McCulloch: "It can totally destroy lives and bring misery. People gamble beyond their means"

What would you do if fate's fickle finger made you rich?

By Andrew Pierce

THE winner of the estimated £33 million jackpot will be provided with a team of financial advisers by Camelot to ensure they are not exploited by the unscrupulous.

If one person wins, by the time the following week's jackpot is drawn he or she will have accrued £45,486 in interest in a building society.

Richard Branson, who was thwarted in his attempt to run the Lottery, could provide a 40-year holiday on Necker, his Caribbean island, where

the weekly rent is £15,000. The Royal Yacht Britannia, and four stately homes, would fit comfortably within the £33 million price range, or the winner could book into the finest suite in London's Ritz Hotel for the next 100 years.

The jackpot would enable the winner to buy 300 top-of-the-range Rolls-Royce Silver Spirits which cost a mere £112,000 before a discount has been negotiated for buying in bulk. Or the car enthusiast could bid for the world's most expensive motor vehicle, a vintage Bugatti Royale, which

is expected to fetch £13 million later this year.

Football fans could start their own team. However, the £33 million would be enough to run top-of-the-table Newcastle United for only one year.

Winners who were security conscious could invest in the ultimate deterrent: a squadron of Challenger tanks, a couple of Tornado fighters, or a fully armed battalion.

The £33 million would also provide 2,000 teaching posts for 12 months or three new secondary schools.

Father pleads at murder scene: 'Find this killer'

By Stephen Farrell and Stewart Tindler

THE father of Celine Figard, the murdered French hitchhiker, travelled to Worcester yesterday, as police declared that they may be hunting a serial killer.

Bernard Figard, wearing a maroon anorak, placed three bunches of chrysanthemums, freesias and laurels in a yellow plastic container attached to the fence beneath which his daughter's body was discovered by a motorist. The 46-year-old farmer quietly walked back towards Hagley Wood, lifted his camera and took a photograph of the scene. Police officers stood back to allow him several minutes alone.

Then, speaking through a police interpreter, M Figard appealed for help from the public to trace the killer. "Celine came to this country because she likes England and she likes the people here," he said. "Everyone who can help catch her killer must. I urge anyone who knows anything to talk to the police so we can find this person."

M Figard was driven away in an unmarked police car. The family plans to take her body back to France, but no date has been fixed for her funeral.

West Mercia police, who took over the investigation after the discovery of Mlle Figard's body on Friday, believe she may have been the victim of a serial killer. They are looking at possible links to the murders of nine women dating from the late 1980s.

Detective Chief Superintendent John McCammon, who is leading the murder hunt, said yesterday that his team was in particular studying the files on Tracey Turner, whose body was found in March 1994 in Leicestershire, close to the junction of the M1 and M6. Police have been struck by the fact that both Mlle Figard and Miss Turner were last seen alive at service stations.

Mr McCammon, head of West Mercia CID, told a press conference: "There are several cases around the country that are well known and have been reported where naked women have been found adjacent to major roads or country lanes with similar injuries to those of Celine."

He added: "Those are things we will be looking at and we will be in contact with other investigating officers from other forces and indeed from this force to see if there are any similarities. But at the moment there is nothing definite to link it to any other killing."

Mr McCammon added



Bernard Figard taking flowers to the spot where Celine's body was found

that there was no evidence that Mlle Figard, 19, had been kept alive after her abduction. "She could have been killed straight away," he said. Police do not know how long the body lay unattended, but want to talk to motorists or walkers in the area last Thursday, the day before she was found.

Mlle Figard, an accountancy student from Ferrières-les-

Scay, southeast of Paris, was last seen on December 19 after she boarded a lorry at the M4 service station at Chicheley, Berkshire. The driver promised to drop her off in Hampshire, where she was due to spend Christmas a relative at Fordingbridge. Her body was found dumped by a lay-by on the A449 not far from the M5 on Friday,

ten days later.

In March 1994, Tracey Turner's body was found in a ditch at Billeswell, Leicestershire. A prostitute, she was last seen alive looking for clients at a service station on the M6 at Hilton Park.

Earlier this month detectives from West Mercia and eight other forces met to discuss possible links be-

tween the Turner case and eight other murders involving prostitutes or women who may have been mistaken for prostitutes.

They date from 1987 and cover Lancashire, London, the Midlands, East Anglia and the West Country. Police decided there were no clear links but could not rule out a connection. Some involved strangulation and others had been beaten to death and in a number of cases the bodies were left near motorways.

In the case of Jane Clayton, 27, a member of a religious commune, police believe she may have been mistaken for a prostitute. She was dumped in a ditch at Coleby, Lincolnshire, in July 1994.

The investigation into Mlle Figard's death is concentrating on tracing the lorry driver who picked her up in his white Mercedes truck with grey Thermo-King refrigerated trailer around 5.10pm on December 19. When she was found she had been beaten around the head and throat. There was no sign of her clothes, nor a suitcase and rucksack she was carrying. A post-mortem examination showed no evidence of sexual assault.

The investigation will now focus on two aspects: witnesses at the scene and tracing the driver. He was described as white, aged 30 to 35, with short fair hair, a cropped "chinstrap" beard and wearing a grey sweatshirt and pullover, possibly a uniform.

"Whether or not he is Celine's killer is not known. He may just have picked her up and then dropped her off," Mr McCammon said. Checks with the DVLA in Swansea showed 1,200 such vehicles registered in Britain. Police searching for Louise Smith, the 18-year-old who vanished a week ago, were questioning partygoers arriving for new year celebrations last night at the club where she was last seen a week ago.

More than a dozen officers were due to be outside the Spire Club until early today in an appeal for more help in finding her. Police prepared leaflets to hand out to people leaving and arriving which show a photograph of Miss Smith and details of her disappearance.

Inspector Peter Rowe, of Avon and Somerset police, said yesterday that police were hoping for one vital bit of information from a member of the public which could help to find her. He said police were still hoping to find her and return her to her family safe and well.

Miss Smith, of Chipping Sodbury, was last seen shortly after leaving the nightclub in Yale on Christmas morning.

Priest links robe to Catherine of Aragon

By Dalia Alberge, Arts Correspondent



The parish priest's robe with decoration believed to have been done by Henry VIII's first wife

A SHROPSHIRE parish priest believes that his church robe carries a 450-year-old design embroidered by Catherine of Aragon, the first wife of Henry VIII.

Legend linked the robe to Catherine, who was an expert needlewoman. Father Paul Sidoli, the Ludlow and Clebury Mortimer parish priest, spent a year researching the connection. Before then, historians could date it to the early 16th century only on stylistic grounds.

However, Father Sidoli has become convinced that the robe bears Catherine's handiwork. Its imagery includes eight pomegranates, the heraldic symbol of Granada in southern Spain, where Catherine was born. But he found that in the published text of her will Catherine stipulated that cloth from her garments be used by priests for worshipping.

Father Sidoli said: "One will simply never come across



Catherine: her will gives credence to the theory

a document that confirms an artefact is 100 per cent what it appears to be. But the evidence all points to this being a genuine article."

Queen Mary, Henry's daughter by Catherine, enlisted the help of aristocratic Catholic families to protect the garment during the Reformation. It was held for hundreds of years at family seats in

Warwickshire and Shropshire and bequeathed to the parish in 1958 by Sir Walter Blount.

It was on loan to the Victoria and Albert Museum until last year, when Father Sidoli was asked to verify that the robe belonged to his parish for insurance purposes. When Father Sidoli asked to see it, the museum offered to donate it back to the church, as it already had embroidered work from the same period.

The garment is now kept locked away at a secret location. Previously it was seen by parishioners only on rare occasions, such as the fifteenth anniversary celebrations of a former priest.

David Lloyd, a local historian and author of several books on Ludlow, said: "The findings remind us just how important these little pockets of Roman Catholicism were in outlying areas such as Shropshire. As I understand it, this is why the gown has survived. It also reminds us how important Ludlow was. It was virtually the capital of Wales. That's why Catherine came."

Tips - but no cures - for the hangover blues

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

FEELING rough? Wondering how to cure that dry mouth and throbbing head? Well, please don't ask your doctor.

All over the country people are suffering what scientists call "a nutritionally self-induced type of cerebral malfunction" - to the rest of us, a hangover. But the secret of the hangover cure is that there isn't one.

Some Scots swear by Irn-Bru, a fizzy orange drink deemed to have near-magical powers. Russians simply open another bottle of vodka and begin again. In reality nothing works much better than Alka Seltzer. Secretly, many doctors are delighted

by this, because if it wasn't for hangovers lots more people would become alcoholics.

The Consumers' Association magazine, *Which?*, carried out tests on commercial hangover remedies and found that they would relieve the symptoms, but no more effectively or cheaply than two paracetamol in a glass of water. Most of the remedies consist of a painkiller plus bicarbonate to settle the stomach, together with other minor ingredients.

The basic cause of hangovers is dehydration. Alcohol is a diuretic, so an evening's drinking paradoxically leaves the body short of fluids. The result is to cause the blood vessels leading to the brain to dilate, increasing pressure and causing the splitting

head. Drinking at least a pint of water before going to bed is a good idea. The fact that the body is dehydrated explains why the "hair of the dog" can relieve the symptoms, just by adding fluid, but it is unlikely to be any more effective than water.

Food before drinking cuts blood alcohol levels by up to 40 per cent, with a consequent diminution of the hangover. Milk and yoghurt are also reckoned to be good absorbers. Given a choice of drinks, the less violent the colour the better. Worst of all is port.

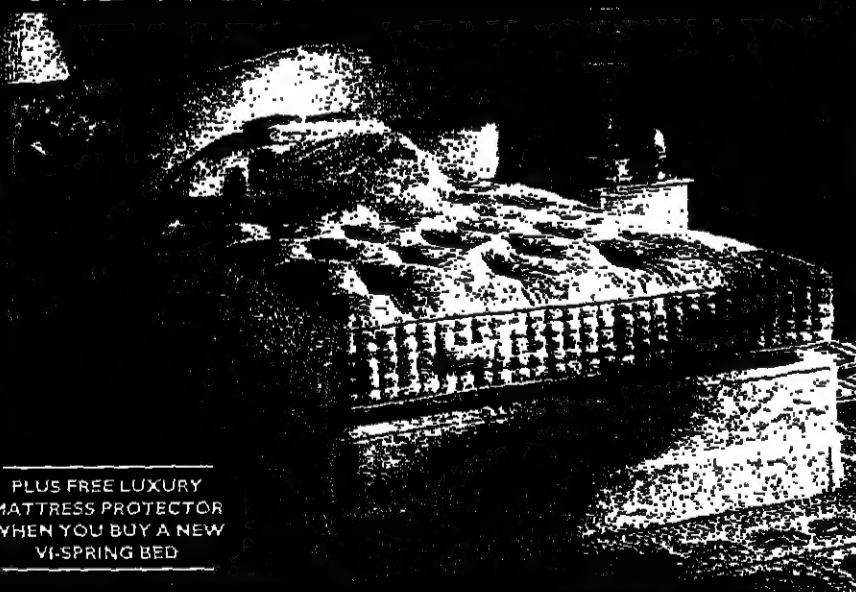
There is some justification for taking vitamins, to replace those washed away the night before. Fruit, fruit juice and vitamins B and C in plentiful amounts can do no harm. Since alcohol irritates the lining of the

stomach, something to settle that should help, which brings us back to Alka Seltzer or its kindred. Sweet drinks can help to stabilise blood-sugar levels and restore energy, which may be the secret of Irn-Bru.

A couple of years ago the American company Computimed promised an elixir called SoberGain. It worked by lining the intestine with extra supplies of the enzyme that breaks down alcohol, and promised to sober you up much more quickly.

So far, SoberGain has yet to hit the shelves, though research continues. But even if it works, it isn't really the answer. Those who celebrate New Year's Eve don't want to be sober, but simply to drink and not to count the cost. Dream on.

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'Racier' Archers plough on into their 46th year

BY ALEXANDRA FRANK

THE agricultural paraphernalia has changed from the days when the fields of Ambridge were ploughed by shire horses. But the storylines are as gripping today as they were 45 years ago when *The Archers* was first broadcast on New Year's Day.

In the opening episode, Phil Archer, then a young farmer, was discovered smooching in a car with Grace. The couple were not even engaged. Swearing, including the word "damned", was commonplace in 1951 and attracted not a single letter from listeners to the Home Service. Yet, if a character goes beyond "Goodness me" in 1995, sackloads of complaining letters are received at the programme's offices in the BBC's Pebble Mill studios.

The series will begin the new year today by focusing on the problems faced by the "brat pack", a new generation of teenagers led by the rebellious Kate Aldridge. Tonight's episode will end with a cliff-hanger over the fate of Kate, who in the past has experimented with drugs and run off with New Age travellers.

Kate, 17, played by Kellie Bright, dives into a deep depression after being sacked from her job and declares that



Faces of the fictional brat pack: from left, John Archer, Hayley Jordan, Roy Tucker and Kate Aldridge

she is going to celebrate until she drops. Vanessa Whitburn, the programme's editor, said that the trademark twist in the plot was designed to illustrate some of the harsh realities faced by young people in a world of rapidly changing social values, where hard drugs were becoming commonplace. She would not com-

ment further on tonight's episode.

Unlike television soap operas, *The Archers* has traditionally kept its storylines secret. As an added precaution, scripts for tonight's episode were shredded after it was recorded. Ms Whitburn, who formerly worked on the Channel 4 soap opera

Brookside, said: "The Archers now has a generation of racier young people, a brat pack — Kate, Roy Tucker, John Archer and Hayley Jordan. The programme has a younger listenership than the average for Radio 4, but the brat pack is not just there to appeal to young listeners. They are there to reflect what is going

on in the real world. I believe we have been able to introduce them without the programme losing its charm or humour."

The latest developments are a far cry from *The Archers* early days as a post-war rural drama, designed to inform farmers about modern agricultural developments. When it began, the two Archers

shire horses, Blossom and Boxer, still worked on the farm and the entire village would pitch in with the haymaking.

Nowadays the farms are heavily mechanised. The programme lost its educational purpose in the early 1970s but still prides itself on the quality of its research and the accuracy of its reflections of rural life. Norman Faintling, 71, who has played Phil Archer since the first episode in 1951, said: "If the programme had allowed itself to get all cosy, it would have been finished years ago. Our job has always been to reflect life as it is. Nothing has changed except life itself."

The only other surviving character from the first episode is Christine, Phil's sister. In 1951, she was working as an assistant in Borchester Dairies.

Two other surviving characters appeared in the first year. Peggy Woolley, played by June Spencer, was originally married to Phil Archer's brother John (known as Jack). Her first husband died and she later married Jack Woolley. She first appeared in mid-January 1951. Tom Forrest, Doris Archer's brother, played by Bob Arnold, made his first appearance in the programme in March 1951.

ANNIVERSARY GUIDE TO AMBRIDGE

■ *The Archers* is Britain's longest-running drama serial. Launched on January 1, 1951, nearly 12,000 episodes have been broadcast.

■ The theme tune was not specially written for the programme. It is called *Bairwick Green* and comes from the suite *My Native Heath*, by the Yorkshire composer Arthur Wood.

■ Charles Collingwood, who plays Brian Aldridge, is married to Judy Bennett, who plays Shula Hobden.

■ Real people who have played themselves in the series include the Duke of Westminster, Terry Wogan, Annika Rice, Dame Edna Everage and Britt Ekland.

■ Princess Margaret played herself in the 8,715th episode in 1984, when she visited an Ambridge fashion show held to raise funds for the NSPCC.

■ The Earl of Lichfield, cousin to the Queen, took the pictures at the 1985 wedding of Shula Archer and solicitor Mark Hobden.

■ Susan Carter became the first Ambridge woman to be sent to jail when she was sentenced on December 23, 1993, to serve six months for harbouring her brother after an armed robbery. Listeners formed a "Free the Ambridge One" campaign and appealed to the Home Secretary for her release.

■ The oldest actor in the history of the programme was Chris Gittins, who was 86 when he recorded his last episode as Walter Gabriel.

■ There are 175 characters in the Archers, but only about seven appear in each episode. Four weeks of programmes are recorded in six days every month.

■ The most famous death in *The Archers* was when Grace Archer died after trying to rescue a horse from a barn fire on September 22, 1955. It was said that the BBC did it to spoil the launch of ITV that night.

■ Phillip Molloy, who plays William Grundy, is the real-life son of Terry Molloy, who plays Mike Tucker.

■ Lucy Davis, who plays Hayley Jordan, is the daughter of the comedian Jasper Carrott.

Good health to year of advance in medicines



MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttford

LAST year was not a revolutionary one for the introduction of medicines but it did see steady advances, particularly in the treatment of conditions that affect the daily life of hundreds of thousands of people.

The success of the Chief Medical Officer's campaign for mass vaccination against measles, reducing the death and long-term disease that used to accompany epidemics, will make the year memorable, as will the dramatic reduction in the number of cases of Hib meningitis after the establishment of injections against it.

Reliable vaccination against the principal cause of bacterial meningitis in this country, meningococcus group B, is awaited but the pharmaceutical industry is spending millions of pounds researching this, and immunologists are attempting to unravel the mystery as to why such a frequent marauder in our throats and noses occasionally wreaks such sudden, terrible destruction.

Although the introduction of the new generation of antidepressants, the 5HT reuptake inhibitors such as Prozac or Serenex, has not had much influence on the constant danger of suicide in depressed patients it has reduced the side effects which an already gloomy patient is asked to tolerate.

The treatment of heart failure and high blood pressure continues to benefit from increased use of the ACE inhibitors. The hypertensive agent Cozaar, which is an angiotensin antagonist, rather than inhibitor, has been marketed this year, unlike the existing ACE inhibitors it does not cause a troublesome chronic cough.

One event which is as certain in the human lifecycle as death is that all women who survive will go through a

menopause. The dangers of cardiovascular disease, loss of bone density, disease to gums and genital atrophy need, when there are no contraindications, pharmaceutical relief. Fosamax is a non-estrogenic treatment introduced last year to treat osteoporosis in those women who cannot take the usual forms of HRT. It effectively strengthens all bones.

Standard HRT has improved too. Tridestra, the three-monthly HRT pack which therefore produced premenstrual-type symptoms only four times a year, has become established and a new drug Kliofem is now marketed which provides constant daily standard HRT treatment: it is suitable for women over 54 or for those who have had no periods for a year.

Perhaps the most useful introduction to the HRT market is the Menorest patch in which the hormones are incorporated in the adhesive, rather than in a separate reservoir. The advantage is that as the new patch does not contain alcohol it will not cause skin irritation. After a few weeks of treatment of the older type of patches many women's buttocks were studded with the fading areas of an inflammatory action.

Treatment of infections continues to improve. Drugs have been introduced that supplement those already available against HIV, and Wellvone is now available for pneumonia caused by pneumococci which frequently complicates AIDS. A vaccine to a great many more patients is improved treatment against herpes, Valtrex, and Lomenix against thrush.

Last year saw preparations against various cancers: taxotere (Tocetaxel) for advanced cancer of the breast and De-Capeptyl for late cancer of the prostate.

Safer painkiller should cut deaths

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

■ A SAFER brand of the common painkiller paracetamol, which could save hundreds of deaths from liver failure, is to be launched this month.

■ The "new" formulation was invented more than 20 years ago, but has never been sold widely. In the same time there have been more than 2,000 deaths from paracetamol overdoses.

■ Although standard paracetamol is safe at the correct dose — a maximum of eight 500mg tablets in 24 hours — it is more dangerous than many other drugs in overdose. A single dose of 15 tablets requires a person to have their stomach pumped.

■ About 150 deaths and 30,000 hospital admissions are caused each year by para-

cetamol poisoning. Most cases are attempted suicides, but accidental poisonings also occur.

■ The new safe paracetamol, called Paracetamol, is expected to be in chemists' shops this month. The tablets sell for about the same price as branded paracetamol.

■ Roger Jones, managing director of Penn Pharmaceuticals, the company making the new product, said he had decided to sell it after talking to NHS poison units around the country. "The technology to save people from paracetamol poisoning has been available since the 1970s. But the companies selling paracetamol hoped it would die a death and people would forget about it."

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مكتبة الأمل

Public faces and political secrets of 1965, the first full year of the Labour Government

When the gallows came down and hemlines kept going up



The new faces of power: Harold Wilson and his Chancellor of the Exchequer, James Callaghan

REPORTS BY
NIGEL WILLIAMSON

IT WAS the first full year of Labour government for 15 years. Churchill died, hanging was ended, and the "permissive society" was thought to be in full swing.

Secret Cabinet papers from 1965 are released for scrutiny today under the 30-year rule, focussing attention on a year that bridged two ages. Mods and Rockers were still fighting on Britain's seafarers: 56 were arrested in Brighton at Easter. But pop culture was moving into a new phase. Bob Dylan was going electric and the Beatles' whose album *Help!* was on sale at 12s.6d, smoked marijuana in the lavatories at the Palace before picking up their MBEs. The traitor Kim Philby had his OBE cancelled by the Queen. Jean Shrimpton caused consternation at the Mel-



Jean Shrimpton, left, lifted hemlines, police quelled seaside violence, and the Post Office tower rose above all

bourne races with the shortness of her mini-dress. The new fashion caused British customs officers to redefine tax-free children's clothes. Previous exemption had been determined by hem-length: the mini meant it was now to be determined by bust-size. Mary Whitehouse

launched her first campaign to combat "BBC bad taste and irresponsibility". An opinion poll showed that 94 per cent of the country belonged to a church and 98 per cent believed in God. The first woman High Court judge, Elizabeth Lane, was appointed. Reggie Kray

got married, with good-luck messages wishes from Barbara Windsor and Judy Garland among others. Ian Brady and Myra Hindley were arrested for the Moors murders. Cigarette advertising was abolished on television. The first all-digit telephone numbers replaced named ex-

changes. Under Harold Wilson's "white heat" of technology, Concorde was given the go-ahead and the 620ft Post Office tower, then Britain's tallest building, opened in London. In sport, Cassius Clay knocked out Sonny Liston and Floyd Patterson. Liver-

pool won the FA Cup for the first time and, in Alf Garnett's finest hour, West Ham United won the European Cup Winners' Cup. The first substitute was allowed in League football: Keith Peacock of Charlton Athletic. The South African cricket team toured England — the last tests between the two countries for 29 years — and John Edrich hit 310 against New Zealand. Package holidays were starting to take off, and two weeks on the Costa del Sol cost £66.16s. The average British house cost only £3,660. A pint of bitter was 1s 9d.

Away from the escalating war in Vietnam and UDI in Rhodesia, the nation was entertained by the exploits of Goldie, the golden eagle, who escaped from London zoo not once but twice, causing traffic jams of well-wishers and sightseers in Regent's Park. □ Additional reporting: Adam Williamson

Prime Minister had to balance private support for Johnson with appeasing the Left

Wilson wanted to send troops to back US in Indo-China

HAROLD WILSON would have liked to have committed British troops to support the American military action in Vietnam. He told President Johnson. But by the autumn of 1965 concern about British public reaction was so strong that the Government commissioned an unprecedented secret poll among "elite opinion formers".

A private telegram to the President, dated August 1965, shows that Wilson went further in his support for the American action than he ever admitted. Publicly, the Prime Minister maintained a balancing act between support for an ally and appeasing the anti-American views of the Labour Left.

However, he wrote in the telegram: "I can see no alternative to your policy of strengthening your forces in

VIETNAM

order to demonstrate to Hanoi the futility of their dreams of military victory." He said his objective was to show "our solidarity with you" and he assured Johnson that the British Government was "determined to persevere in their support for American policies". The President expressed his appreciation for British support.

The telegram continued: "I wish there was more we could do to help you, but I need not remind you how far our contribution to international peacekeeping has already overstretched our resources." He then told Johnson: "I am currently examining the feasibility of doing something to make still more manifest our support for your patient

and courageous policy in Vietnam."

The Cabinet papers show a growing concern with public opinion over British support for the Americans. In March, Wilson sent a telegram to Michael Stewart, the Foreign Secretary, who was in Washington. The Labour Left was opposed to the military build-up and, with a small Commons majority, Wilson was anxious to avoid trouble. He told Stewart that the Americans "should be left in no doubt about the strength of feeling here and about the difficulties we are facing. There is a danger of widespread anti-Americanism."

He continued: "You will realise that the American decision to use gas, even though it is non-lethal, coming on top of the use of napalm, has greatly aggravated the concern felt here in Parliament and indeed more widely."

At the same time Wilson dispatched Patrick Gordon Walker, the former Foreign Secretary, on a fact-finding mission to South-East Asia. His report to the Prime Minister also recognised the need to placate public opinion. Gordon Walker concluded: "We should search for a policy which, while backing America loyally, allows us a certain more apparent independence of view."

By September concern about public support for British policy was such that the Foreign Office wrote to Wilson saying that opposition was "by no means confined to communists, fellow travellers and professional anti-Americans". The Foreign Office asked permission to conduct what it described as "an innovation": a poll of "elite opinion, rather than the public". Wilson agreed to a suggestion that the poll should be kept secret and those interviewed were not to know who was sponsoring the research.

By the end of the year Mark Abrams, head of Research Services, which had carried out the poll, was able to reassure Wilson before he flew to Washington on December 16. Abrams summarised his findings in a letter to the Prime Minister in three key points: there was "substantial support" for British policy; European policy was regarded as "more important" than the Far East; and there was "no faith" in any action by the United Nations.

The "substantial support" did not extend as far as the Labour back benches. While he was in Washington, Wilson received a telegram from 68 Labour MPs demanding that the United States should immediately cease its bombing of North Vietnam.

Wilson said it was a probability that there would be "a terrible conflict and bloodshed". In fact, on the same day, Wilson had sent a telegram to Stewart in Washington, saying: "We do not think that the Russians would wish to make any attempt to intervene."

In a series of candid and often moving telegrams to President Johnson about the crisis, Wilson described his visit to Salisbury: "It was an exhausting and in many ways a depressing week, depressing because so many people have their minds in blinkers and they are wrapped up in a cocoon of self-delusion."



Dusty Springfield in Johannesburg in December 1964, expelled for performing before a multiracial audience

Foreign Office blocked apartheid protest over singer's expulsion

SOUTH AFRICA

THE Prime Minister wanted Britain to protest to South Africa over the expulsion of Dusty Springfield for singing to multiracial audiences, but was overruled by the Foreign Office.

Shortly afterwards the singer Adam Faith also left South Africa in controversy after refusing to perform before segregated audiences. While he was in South Africa, he was once again washed its hands. Both singers had only themselves to blame, the Foreign Office told Downing Street in a confidential memorandum.

Dusty Springfield, who topped the charts in the mid-Sixties with songs such as *I Only Want To Be With You* and *You Don't Have To Say You Love Me*, was deported with her band The Echoes after performing before a multiracial audience in Cape Town in December 1964. Her manager had said they

were presented with an "ultimatum" soon after arriving in South Africa, warning that they must not perform in front of multiracial audiences. This was contrary to her contract, which made clear that she would not appear in segregated venues, he said.

The manager maintained it was only because of this proviso that he had taken the group to South Africa. In defiance of a Musicians' Union ban on artists appearing there, Wilson saw the telegram from British officials in Pretoria and wrote across it: "Are we protesting?"

Downing Street officials then wrote to the Foreign Office seeking action. The hasty scribble in pencil was typical of Wilson's determination to get involved in every aspect of public life, particularly in the early years after Labour's election victory in 1964. But the Foreign Office



Faith: refused to appear for whites-only audience

replied: "Miss Springfield was not arrested and on a strictly legal view the South Africans appear to have acted within their rights."

A Labour Prime Minister's abhorrence of apartheid counted for little in the face of diplomatic adherence to the strict letter of international

law. A month later in January 1965 Adam Faith was sued for breach of contract by a Cape Town theatre manager when he refused to appear before a whites-only audience.

Faith's manager had apparently signed a contract saying the singer would not perform to multiracial audiences. The singer was allowed to leave the country only after a bond was offered to cover the suit against him.

The Foreign Office concluded that trouble was bound to ensue "if artists embark on foreign tours without first ensuring that the arrangements comply both to the requirements of local law and custom". Such an oversight did "not provide grounds for government intervention on their behalf."

One official blamed the media and wrote to the Downing Street office: "These two got into trouble as a result of statements published in the press which made an issue of apartheid."

Banknote plot to catch fugitives

GREAT TRAIN ROBBERY

THE Government proposed preventing the great train robbers from enjoying their ill-gotten gains by withdrawing all banknotes from circulation in 1965.

Under Harold Wilson's plan, bank customers would have been asked to surrender their old money for notes with a new design, leaving those robbers still at liberty holding worthless pieces of paper. But the Treasury and the Bank of England dismissed the scheme as impractical.

Mr Wilson first aired the idea in the summer of 1965, almost two years after the Great Train Robbers escaped with sacks of mail containing more than £2½ million in banknotes. The Treasury was asked to provide costings but James Callaghan, the Chancellor, never shared Mr Wilson's enthusiasm for the idea.

But in July 1965 Mr Wilson proposed a second, modified scheme, that all notes not bearing the signature of the current chief cashier at the Bank of England be made illegal tender. The bank again

rejected the scheme and the Treasury also argued that to declare the notes illegal without warning would be too great an inconvenience for the public. To give a warning would be to render the exercise pointless.

Wilson still refused to let drop what by now had all the makings of an obsession. In November 1965 he raised the idea again with Callaghan, telling his Chancellor: "It would be possible, administratively, to ensure that those who have no trust in banks, and therefore keep their savings in stockings or under the mattress, would be able to convert them into legal tender on application at a bank. Backstreet motor-car salesmen and other tax evaders, together with the train robbers, would find themselves stuck with useless notes."

Mr Callaghan was asked to reapply himself to the idea with more vigour but came back with the same arguments, plus the fresh claim that the Bank of England would find "detailed inquiry"



Three of the mail robbers leaving a court hearing and, below, the train from which £2.6m was stolen



of those seeking to cash the old notes "practically impossible". Even then Wilson had one last try. He demanded, and was furnished with, information on the dates of recent chief cashiers and the life-span of

the average banknote. But by December, with Rhodesia having declared UDI and the situation growing ever more grave in Vietnam, he appeared to have other things on his mind and accepted defeat.

Ministers rivals in rudeness

James Callaghan and George Brown were in competition over many aspects of economic policy, including who could be the rudest about Lord Cromer, Governor of the Bank of England. Mr Callaghan, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said Cromer was hellbent on creating a "psychological atmosphere" that undermined government policy. Brown demanded that the governor be told that his speeches were "tedious and inappropriate".

Cuban alert

Britain's home defence plans were redrawn after the 1962 Cuban missile crisis so that the country could be in a state of readiness for war at two or three days' notice, instead of a week. A deadline of January 1965 was set for arrangements to be in place.

Breath test fear

Ministers feared that plans to introduce the breathalyser and outlaw drink driving would prove highly unpopular. A Cabinet minute from October 1965 notes: "Public opinion was not necessarily convinced that the problem was sufficiently serious to warrant measures of this kind."

No to gay law

The Government decided it could not support legalising homosexual activities "in the foreseeable future". The Cabinet accepted the view of Sir Frank Soskice, the Home Secretary, that the proper course was for the move to be the subject of a private member's Bill with a free vote.

Press gag

Downing Street told ministers' private offices to refuse facilities to Anthony Howard, a *Sunday Times* journalist, because of newspaper articles exposing policy divisions. Mr Howard, now an assistant editor of *The Times*, said yesterday: "It was a case of over reaction."

BBC ads call

Tony Benn urged the Government to consider allowing advertising on the BBC. Mr Benn, minister for broadcasting, said the BBC's deficit was increasing by £300,000 a week and that opening up the corporation to advertisements may be essential to avert a cash crisis.

Earlier release

Papers released under the "30-year rule" include a memorandum by Harold Wilson which led to a change from papers being kept secret for 50 years, as was the case since 1958. Before then few government documents under 100 years old were made available for public study.

Card vote

A House of Commons Christmas card, with a scene showing Alexander III of Scotland paying homage to Edward I of England, annoyed Willie Ross, the Scottish Secretary. It was too late to change, but alternatives were offered from store to those who took exception.

President stakes re-election campaign on battle against Republican 'extremism'



'Comeback Kid' resumes lead as White House race begins

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

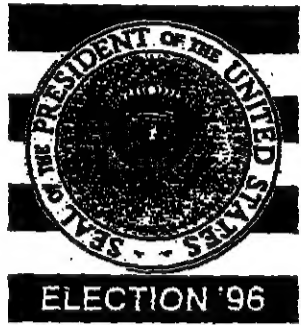
IT SEEMED inconceivable until recently, but America's presidential election year begins today with Bill Clinton the clear favourite to become only the third Democratic President to win re-election since the Civil War. The others were Woodrow Wilson and Franklin Roosevelt.

If Mr Clinton does win his final campaign of a lifetime spent running for office, this resilient politician will truly have earned his favourite title of the "Comeback Kid".

This time last year the Republicans were triumphantly hoisting their standard on Capitol Hill for the first time in 40 years, having routed the Democrats in congressional elections that were seen as a massive repudiation of the President.

The media were predicting a new era of Republican dominance lasting well into the 21st century. Newt Gingrich was crowned America's de facto president, and the genuine article was left pathetically protesting his relevancy — "I don't consider myself a titular head of state".

Mr Clinton's legislative programme was in tatters. Polls



ELECTION '96

showed that two-thirds of Democrats wanted to dump him. There was speculation that party elders would ask him to step aside in 1996 and make way for Al Gore, the Vice-President. It was considered inevitable that he would be challenged for the Democratic nomination, and quite possibly he would be the first sitting President to be denied his party's nomination since Chester Arthur in 1884.

As it is, Mr Clinton now enjoys a double-digit lead over Robert Dole, his likely Republican opponent. He has amassed a \$36 million (£23 million) war chest. The economy is sound and the country at peace. Above all, he has skillfully averted a debilitating challenge for the Democratic nomination, which means he

can stay above the fray and conserve his resources for the next three months as the Republicans batter each other in the primaries. No Democratic President since Roosevelt has enjoyed that luxury.

This election, the 53rd since George Washington became the first President in 1789, should have been the Republicans' for the taking. They have won five of the last seven, and in 1992 Mr Clinton squeaked home with just 43 per cent of the vote after Ross Perot split the opposition. The Republicans have, however, made themselves the underdogs.

In retrospect, Mr Gingrich's rise has been the President's salvation. The Speaker has not only proved to be an unlovable figure, but appears to have overestimated the mandate he and his fellow Republican revolutionaries received last year. That has left Mr Clinton back into the game.

Moving sharply towards the Right under the tutelage of Dick Morris, his new political guru, the President has copied the popular parts of the Republicans' programme — shrinking government, cutting the deficit, devolving power — but has astutely taken stands whenever he believed the "revolution" was leaving

the public behind. He has established himself as a bulwark against Republican "extremism". The Republicans may have won the battle of ideas, but the President has been winning public opinion.

Mr Clinton's other big break has been the unwillingness of almost every heavyweight Republican to spend a gruelling year seeking their party's nomination. The result is that Mr Clinton will in all probability be faced by a man whom James Carville, his 1992 campaign strategist, has described as a "72-year-old legislative mechanic".

Mr Dole lacks vision and generates little excitement, but it is hard to see how he can fail to win the nomination in this, his third attempt. He has 21 of America's 31 state governors working for him, more than \$24 million to spend, and a huge poll lead over eight opponents who are all, as one of their number candidly admitted, "charismatically challenged". Neither Phil Gramm, the Texas senator, nor Lamar Alexander, the former Tennessee Governor, have managed to break from the pack and are now in danger of being eclipsed by Steve Forbes, a publishing tycoon with no political experi-

ence whatever. This year's primary season, compressed into six weeks by California's unusually early contest, gives Mr Dole an added advantage as the best-known and best-funded candidate, and in any case the Republicans, unlike the Democrats, almost always nominate their early frontrunner.

It is unlikely to be an inspiring election. Lacking a strong record, Mr Clinton will have to turn his advantage by making this an election about character and leadership. Mr Clinton's weak spots. He will urge voters to pass the torch back to the generation that won both the Second World War and the Cold War. He will allude to the heroism that nearly cost him his life in 1945, his long fight back to health, his record of experience and legislative accomplishment during 35 years in Washington. "It's time for adult leadership," he says.

The pendulum could yet swing back in Mr Dole's favour. Mr Clinton's deployment of American troops in Bosnia-Herzegovina could go horribly wrong. Kenneth Starr, the special prosecutor, could produce a devastating report on the Whitewater affair. The Republican revolution's present unpopularity could evaporate if it does genuinely balance the nation's books for the first time in decades. Conversely, Mr Dole may fall to last the pace for the next 11 months, or Mr Perot's bedeviling third party may again split the Republican vote.



Newt Gingrich, the Speaker, and President Clinton are due to hold more talks today to end the cash crisis

Budget deal hopes rise

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton and Republican leaders ended their third day of intensive talks to end the US budget crisis at noon yesterday on an optimistic note. They agreed to convene tomorrow when aides said there could be a fairly swift agreement.

Meanwhile, there were hopes that the US Senate, in a rare Sunday session, would vote to send 280,000 civil servants, laid off since December 16, back to work.

The long shutdown has

caused hardship to contractors working for the Government and for businesses dependent on government employees.

The impasse has aroused scorn for the politicians involved, but by refusing to cut the growth of healthcare for the elderly and the poor Mr Clinton seems to have gained the edge in public support over his Republican opponents. Robert Dole, the Senate leader, and Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker,

Harriman family settles its multi-million dollar feud

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

PAMELA HARRIMAN, the American Ambassador in Paris, has settled a 15-month feud involving the loss of millions of dollars with the family of her late husband.

In doing so, she has also joined forces with them in pursuing claims against the legal and financial advisers chosen by W. Averell Harriman as trustees of his estate. Terms of the settlement were not disclosed, but they resolved lawsuits in which Mrs Harriman, a Democratic fund-raiser, was accused with the advisers of squandering more than \$35 million (£22.7 million) on bad investments and in borrowing from the heirs' trust funds.

The English-born Mrs Harriman had been portrayed as growing weary of the dispute. She said in a statement: "I am

pleased to have finally been able to achieve a settlement of all the issues separating my late husband's heirs and me."

Harriman was a seasoned diplomat who was Ambassador in London, and a skilled financier with a family fortune from the Union Pacific railway. On his death ten years ago, Mrs Harriman inherited half his \$65 million estate and became a trustee of trusts he set up for two daughters by an earlier marriage, six grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

The statement said the settlement resolves "all pending litigation" between the heirs and Mrs Harriman "through a mutual and reciprocal redistribution of family assets." The family had alleged that there had been disastrous investments in a New Jersey

resort that had failed as a Playboy hotel and in a factory making soles for running shoes. One fund containing \$25 million had been reduced to \$3 million, they claimed. Mrs Harriman and the advisers denied any wrongdoing.

To raise funds, Mrs Harriman sold paintings by Renoir, Manet and Picasso for \$18.6 million at Christie's in New York a year ago.

According to The Washington Post, Mrs Harriman was close to a settlement last June that would have given the heirs \$20 million but would have required her to sell all her paintings and her mansion in Washington. She did not sign, saying she needed to maintain a net worth of \$10 million and an annual income of between \$700,000 and \$800,000, the newspaper said.

Grateful Dead may be revived

New York Jerry Garcia, the late leader of the Grateful Dead, may soon "live" again, thanks to a plan by surviving band members to release a new album from tapes he made before he died (James Bone writes).

Garcia's posthumous comeback is being planned by Phil Lesh, the group's bass-player, who hopes to salvage enough material from sessions recorded before Garcia's death in a California drug-treatment clinic last August.

The Grateful Dead pioneered acid-rock music in the 1960s and under Garcia's leadership went on to achieve cult status.

Lesh and the rest of the group are considering recording new music around Garcia's guitar and vocal tracks, giving him a new release from beyond the grave.

US lobster trade in hot water with animal rights activists

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

WHEN Mary Tyler Moore met a 16lb lobster named Spike at a restaurant in Malibu, the television star was so appalled that she offered to buy it for \$1,000 (£650) to spare it a painful death in a pot of boiling water.

The restaurant refused, saying Spike was a pet. Moved to action, however, Mr Tyler Moore became a leading campaigner in the growing movement in America for "lobster liberation". During this year's Lobster Festival in Maine, the state that harvests more than half the country's lobsters, a local newspaper published a letter from her.

"Marine biologists report that lobsters are fascinating beings with complex social interactions, long childhoods and awkward adolescences," she wrote. "Like humans, they

flirt with one another and have been seen walking 'claw-in-claw'. And like humans, lobsters feel pain."

Flushed with success from their campaign against fur, animal rights groups have shifted their focus to the tasty crustaceans. Campaigners recently "liberated" 16 lobsters from an Arizona shop. Activists paid \$16 a pound to release the "Tucson 16" and another \$700 to ship them to Maine to be returned to the Atlantic.

The operation provoked ridicule among Maine residents, particularly since only 14 of the creatures survived the trip.

Not surprisingly, the \$320 million-a-year lobster industry challenges the assertion that the creatures feel pain and that their scream when plunged into boiling water is a cry of agony. Lobsters, the Maine Lobster Promotion Council reports, have no vocal cords. The scream comes from air or water suddenly escaping from the shells.

The lobstermen note that the American lobster, *Homarus americanus*, is a cannibal that wrenches the legs off crabs before it devours them. If it had the chance to change places, they say, a lobster would have no compunction about eating people.



Bound for the kitchen

Light shed on Clinton land deals

Washington: A new version emerged yesterday of how a confidant Bill and Hillary Clinton tried to contain the Whitewater affair (Ian Brodie writes).

James Blair, a prominent lawyer in their home state of Arkansas, told Newsweek magazine that he lent \$1,000 (£650) to the bankrupt James McDougal, their partner in the project, so that he could buy their shares, which were practically worthless.

The transaction was handled by Vincent Foster, the lawyer who went with the Clintons to the White House and who was later found shot through the head in a park. His death was ruled to be suicide, but suggestions of foul play persist.

Japan 'hit with own uranium'

New York: A former American intelligence officer has disclosed that the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki may have contained uranium taken from Japan's own nuclear weapons programme (James Bone writes).

The uranium was found aboard a Nazi submarine that surrendered to US forces in the North Atlantic in May 1945 after setting sail from Kiel for Japan. The U-boat contained ten boxes filled with 500kg of uranium ore, apparently destined for Japan's atomic bomb-making project.

Iran to tackle 'US terrorism'

Nicosia: The Iranian parliament has supported a proposal to set up a special fund to fight "Washington-sponsored terrorism" against Islamic countries, Iran, the Iranian news agency said. The decision comes after moves in the US Congress to allocate up to \$20 million (£13 million) for a covert action programme against Tehran. Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri, the Speaker, criticised the American plans as "state terrorism" while Iranian deputies shouted "death to the US". (Reuters)

Cairo blocks Florida show

St Petersburg, Florida: The Florida International Museum has sold 82,000 exhibition tickets to lovers of ancient Egyptian artefacts, but Cairo says they may not go on display on January 10, because the museum has violated a \$10 million (£6.45 million) deal for a five-city American tour. Officials in Florida say the Egyptian Government raised the issue of the deal just before a final contract was to be signed. (Reuters)

Texas weapons ban is lifted

Houston: Texans will today be able to carry concealed weapons for the first time in 125 years. The law overturns an 1871 ban in response to violence in the Wild West. So far, 171,000 people have requested applications for permits to carry weapons. Local governments have greeted the new law with a wave of regulations banning the use of guns in public places. (Reuters)

Rioters fail to flush out mayor

Buenos Aires: An Argentinian mayor locked himself in the town hall toilets for 15 hours to escape rioters protesting over plans to dismiss 120 workers. Alejandro Quintieri, the Mayor of Milagro, in La Rioja province, who was freed by police, said the rioters wanted to kill him. (Reuters)

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مكتبة من الأصل

Dini takes over reins of Europe as his grip on power in Italy weakens

FROM RICHARD OWEN
IN ROME

ITALY takes over the six-month presidency of the European Union from Spain today in a state of political chaos remarkable even by Italian standards. Not even veteran observers of Italy's 54 postwar governments are sure whether the caretaker Prime Minister, the 64-year-old Lamberto Dini, will last in office until July, when Italy hands over the EU hat to Ireland.

At the weekend, when his year-long emergency mandate expired, Dini's tenure was set to end. He had been elected to a six-month term with a tight spending budget and then offered his resignation to President Scalfaro. Dini's tenure was set to end when parliament decided his fate after the new year break, but Italy's numerous parties remain at odds over whether elections should be held during Dini's tenure of the EU presidency.

Silvio Berlusconi, the mercurial tycoon whose Centre-Right coalition collapsed a year ago and who goes on trial on corruption charges this month, has until now been demanding elections to try to bring Dini down. At the weekend, however, he called for a broad all-party coalition to govern for the next two years, saying that Italy faces a constitutional crisis comparable with the creation of democracy after Mussolini.

Behind the turmoil lies the fear that despite Dini's widely applauded efforts to impose budgetary discipline, Italy cannot meet the Maastricht criteria for joining a single currency in 1999. It is Europe's misfortune that while Maastricht reform is coming to a head — with EU enlargement, expanded majority voting and monetary union all on the agenda — Italy's own political reforms are still in flux.

It is three years since electoral reform and the *Mani Pulite* (Clean Hands) anti-corruption drive combined to overturn 40 years of rule by the Christian Democrats. The explosion of new parties and the apparently endless uncovering of skulduggery in high places have produced regeneration, but not yet a more stable system.

It may fall to Signor Dini to usher in one, particularly if the former communist Democratic Party of the Left (PDS), supports him. Signor Dini was plucked from the central bank to be Signor Berlusconi's Treasury Minister, and pledged loyalty to his former mentor when he succeeded him a year ago.

Despite disavowals, however, Signor Dini shows distinct signs of enjoying power and of wanting to keep it. His aim is to reduce Italy's budget deficit — nearly 8 per cent of GDP — to something nearer the Maastricht target of 3 per cent. "We may have to ask Italians to make greater sacrifices than they are used to," said one senior official.

Given Italy's domestic turmoil, its EU agenda is modest: it emphasises measures to counteract unemployment, and Mediterranean concerns. On the other hand, the tide of pro-European opinion still runs strong in Italy, and Signor Dini will want to build on the decision by the Madrid EU summit at the end of the Spanish presidency to adhere to the Maastricht timetable for a single currency.

Signor Dini's immediate task will be to persuade the prickly President Chirac to attend the Turin summit in March to mark the opening of the inter-governmental conference on revising Maastricht. They have barely been on speaking terms since Madrid, where Signor Dini condemned French nuclear testing in the South Pacific. M Chirac retorted that he would probably have much better things to do in the spring of 1996 than visit Turin.

US Army engineers construct the largest pontoon bridge since the Second World War

Tanks roll into Bosnia after Sava bridge is built

FROM STACY SULLIVAN IN SARAJEVO

COLUMNS of American tanks rolled across the Sava River into Bosnia yesterday after US Army engineers completed constructing a bridge.

The building of the pontoon bridge, hampered for days by wintry weather, will finally enable the US First Armoured Division to deploy in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The division forms the bulk of the 20,000 American contingent of the Nato peace implementation force, Ifor. About 2,000 soldiers are already at the American headquarters in Tuzla in northern Bosnia.

Last week, the swollen Sava River overflowed, flooding the US Army engineers' camp and

destroying what work had been accomplished. Yesterday, however, US Humvees and 70-tonne Abrams tanks were at last able to cross from Croatia into Bosnia using the 600-yard long pontoon bridge, the largest built by the US Army since the Second World War when Americans crossed the Rhine in 1945 to march against Hitler's forces. About 100 vehicles carrying 400 troops were expected to cross the bridge yesterday.

The Nato mission has got off to a bold start by bulldozing checkpoints and clearing roads through Serb-held territory, where the United Nations had not dared to venture.

The efficacy of the Nato operation has come into question, however, after spokesmen said it was not within Nato's mandate to enforce freedom of movement for civilians.

One of the pillars of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Peace Accord is that civilians are able to move freely throughout Bosnia. However, people on both sides of the war say they are terrified of crossing into enemy territory without an escort, a service that Ifor has refused to provide.

A Muslim man, interviewed on Bosnian television, said he and his family were beaten by Serbs when their car was stopped crossing the Serb-held

suburb of Ilidza, on the outskirts of Sarajevo. Another Bosnian civilian, a lorry driver, vanished and is reported to have been detained by the Serbs in the town.

"If Ifor sees violence or life-endangering incidents, Ifor is mandated to intervene," said Lieutenant-Colonel Mark Raynor, a British spokesman. However, he said Ifor would not investigate the reported incidents because that was the job of the local authorities. "Ifor can't be the local police force," he said.

Ifor has agreed to provide escorts on the road to Gorazde. "That is a specific area to which we have a commitment under the peace agreement — the interim route to Gorazde," said Colonel Raynor. "In principle, escorting of vehicles will not be done by Ifor," he added.

At the weekend, the first civilian bus ran from Sarajevo to Gorazde, a Muslim enclave east of Sarajevo that has been isolated throughout the three and a half years of war. Crowds of people greeted the vehicle's arrival.

Admiral Leighton Smith, the American commander of the Nato operation in Bosnia, rejected at the weekend a Serb demand to extend the deadline for pulling out the Bosnian-Serb Army from Serb-held areas around Sarajevo. Admiral Smith, who had agreed to consider the request, said he did not have the authority to alter the terms of the peace



A soldier embraces General William Nash, right, who came to praise US Army engineers for building the bridge

agreement and the deadlines would remain intact.

In spite of their disappointment about certain aspects of the Nato mission, the citizens of Sarajevo are entering the new year in high spirits. The streets of the Bosnian capital are packed with shoppers, and the stores, whose shattered windows and barren shelves bore testimony to the travails

of war only two months ago, are now full of goods.

The city is already playing host to celebrity tourists. Yesterday, Bono, the lead singer of the Irish rock band U2, was on hand to celebrate New Year's Eve. "The celebration of the new year here is a festival that all of the traditions of the city have in common," said the musician at a press conference

which was attended by Mohamed Sacirbey, the Bosnian Foreign Minister.

The Sarajevo Philharmonic Orchestra, a third of whose members either fled the city or were killed during the siege of Sarajevo, has reconvened to stage a New Year's Eve concert at the National Theatre.

On the streets of the city, clowns from the Barcelona-

based group, Clowns Without Borders, held a parade as children with painted faces ran alongside.

Tuzla: Bosnians planning to celebrate their first peaceful New Year's Day with the sound of gunfire were told not to let off any shots near the US airbase here for fear of frightening the Americans, local radio said yesterday. (AFP)



The first American tank crosses the new bridge over the Sava River into Bosnia

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**ALLIANCE
LEICESTER**

Major reshuffles top diplomats in Europe

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

KEY appointments are shortly to be made in the Government and Foreign Office machine as John Major prepares his strategy for difficult negotiations in the inter-governmental conference later this year.

The changes, involving the ambassadors in Paris and Bonn, top diplomats in Whitehall and the Prime Minister's two principle foreign affairs advisers, are some of the most far-reaching for years. They are caused partly by retirement, but are also part of a reshuffle to give the Government as much expertise as it can muster for the European negotiations.

An announcement will soon be made that Michael Jay, the Deputy Under-Secretary in the Foreign Office, will succeed Sir Christopher Mallaby as Ambassador to Paris. He will play a crucial role in consolidating the good relations with France and seeking a broad alliance with President Chirac in the coming negotiations.

Mr Jay will be replaced by Paul Lever, an Assistant

Under-Secretary of State in charge of security policy, who takes up his new job tomorrow.

Mr Lever will have to draw up the options for Mr Major and Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, as they fight federalist demands from the Continent.

Mr Jay's appointment at the age of 49 breaks the tradition of Paris being a post from which ambassadors retire. The post has become so enmeshed in European politics and so crucial to the Government's attempt to prevent the inter-governmental conference taking radical leaps towards a closer European union that Mr Major wanted in the post a high-flyer who has spent the past five years immersed in EU politics.

Two other pivotal changes will be in Downing Street. Roderic Lyne, the Prime Minister's foreign affairs adviser, is leaving this month to join British Gas. He has been a key negotiator in the Irish peace talks. He will be succeeded by John Holmes, who has headed one of the two Foreign Office

departments dealing with the EU, and has served previously in Delhi and Moscow.

Christopher Meyer, Mr Major's press spokesman who was summoned home from Washington to sharpen up the Prime Minister's public image, is due to leave Downing Street soon, having completed the two years that he intended to serve there.

He will likely move to one of the two Western European embassies that will need new ambassadors when Sir Nigel Broomfield retires from Bonn and Sir Patrick Fairweather leaves Rome. Mr Meyer, a German speaker, is strongly tipped for Bonn.

The changes leave one senior diplomat disappointed. Pauline Neville-Jones, the political director in the Foreign Office, is Britain's most senior woman diplomat and had been strongly tipped to be the first to head a large embassy such as Bonn or Washington.

She failed to get Paris and is known not to want Bonn, where she has already served. She is shortly to be replaced by Jeremy Greenstock, her current deputy, but no clear new position is open for her. Miss Neville-Jones was a member of the Contact Group where she was Britain's chief negotiator over Bosnia-Herzegovina. She was one of those who signed the Dayton agreement.

Yesterday it emerged that Lord Gilmore, the head of the Foreign Office until last year who was ennobled in the New Year's Honours List, is to join the Centre for European Reform, a think-tank to be launched this month which will, among other initiatives, help to develop European policy for the Labour Party.

Yeltsin promises to keep up reforms

FROM RICHARD BEESTON
IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin made a new year's resolution to pursue his course of economic reform in Russia, in spite of the Communist election victory, regarded as a massive no-confidence vote in his policies.

The Russian leader, who returned to work on Friday after nearly two months recuperating from a heart attack, warned his countrymen that the alternative to reform was a return to the bleak period of Soviet rule.

"It is in Russia's national interests to develop democracy, to strengthen law and order and to continue economic reforms," he said. The remarks were unlikely to calm the jittery business community in Russia, which fears the Communists may repeat their election triumph in the presidential race in June.

Western investors in Russia fear their assets could be seized overnight if the Communists carry out their threat to renationalise state industries. The loss of confidence caused by the Communist win may already have claimed its first victim. Last week Stet, Italy's state-controlled telecommunications company, suspended its offer for 25 per cent of Sviazinvest, its Russian counterpart, halting a planned £900 million investment.

"I think it is unlikely anyone is going to invest in any new large projects in Russia until it becomes clear who will be running the country after June's presidential elections," said one Western banker.



Meyer: tipped to be Bonn Ambassador



Neville-Jones: no clear position in reshuffle

French forgers threaten new European coins

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN PARIS

FORGERS have pumped millions of fake Fr10 coins into the French economy, forcing the Government to issue shopkeepers with a new "counterfeit identification guide" and prompting fresh debate on the size, shape and colour of the single European currency. When the

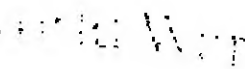
Fr10 coin was introduced in 1988, its makers insisted the combination of metal alloys — a gold-coloured rim with a silver-coloured centre — made it impossible to duplicate. Ingenious forgers immediately proved otherwise.

Last year the directors of the EU's national mints provisionally agreed to use a similar two-tone technique for producing coins in a single European

currency, but the flood of French counterfeiters has led to fears that the euro could also fall prey to forgers.

Officials estimate that each fake ten-franc coin costs an average of one franc to produce, providing forgers with a 90 per cent profit.

At the most conservative estimate, the counterfeiters have already made around Fr60 million (£8.2 million).



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CHOICE 1

London City Ballet
presents the
fairy-tale magic
of *Cinderella*

VENUE: All week at
Sadler's Wells



CHOICE 2

**In Cardiff, Mark
Wigglesworth
makes his debut as
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VENUE: Tonight at
St David's Hall

THE TIMES
ARTS

CHOICE 3

**Sarah Walker joins
the Northern
Sinfonia for a
Viennese evening**

VENUE: Tonight at the
City Hall, Newcastle



VISUAL ART

**At the Tate
in Liverpool,
teenagers turn
a fresh eye
on familiar
works of art**

LONDON

PERFORMANCE The seasonal
festivals finally reach their last week
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Tue and Sat, 2.30pm. Sadler's Wells,
Roxbury Avenue, EC1 (0171-751 6000).
Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Sat, 2.30pm.

RAY GELATO Anyone who has seen Five
Guys Named Moe will be quite at home
with the jumping jive of saxophonist
Ray Gelato, the country's answer to
Louis Jordan and Louis Prima. Bright,
unpretentious and invigorating, his band
has been back to an arena where jazz was still
merely a popular music.

Place on the Park, Knightsbridge,
SW1 (0171-235 5273). Tonight-Sat, 8.15
and 11.15pm.

A DAY IN VIENNA John George's
return to the London Symphony
Orchestra to lead a double bill
programme of Viennese music and dance.
A few surprises are promised for

A CHRISTMAS CAROL Revival of
the 1954 production, Clive Francis plays
Scrooge. Sadler's Wells, EC1 (0171-638
8891). Mon-Sat, 7.15pm; mats Sat,
2.30pm. Until Jan 13.

COMPANY Adrian Lester, Sheila
Gish, Sophie Thompson in an excellent
staging of Bonham's balletic
musical on marriage, pro and contra.
Donmar Warehouse, Earlham Street,
WC2 (0171-389 1722). Mon-Sat,
7.30pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

DEAD FUNNY Belinda Lang, Kevin
McKillop and Sam Kelly in Terry
Johnson's sharply funny play about
corruption and the fall of a politician.
Sadler's Wells, EC1 (0171-638
8891). Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.15pm; mats
Wed, 2.30pm and Sat, 3pm.

HYSTERIA Henry Goodman plays
Frodo, with Tim Pinner as Salvador
Dali. In Terry Johnson's surreal, comic
award-winning. The funniest serious play
in London.
Duke of Yorks, St Martin's Lane, WC2
(0171-638 5123). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm;
mats Thurs and Sat, 3pm.

MACK AND MABEL Jerry
Herman's musical set in early
Hollywood. Fine songs, a
tough-minded book. Starring Howard
McGillin and a delightful Caroline
O'Connor.
Pleasance, Darnley Street, W1 (0171-
389 1734). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Wed
and Sat, 3pm.

NEW RELEASES
• **ACE VENTURA: WHEN NATURE
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Robert Downey Jr. and Jim Carrey. Comedy
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Prostate cancer in Victorian England.
Hardcore drama, with Mark Rydall.

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts
and entertainment
compiled by Iria Anderson

younger members of the audience.
Barnham, St. Paul, SE1 (0171-638
8891). Today, 3pm and 7.30pm.

ELSEWHERE
BARNHAM E.B. White's favourite
children's book is played by award-
winning children's playwright Joseph
Roberts. Broadway master Charles
Strouse is in charge of the music and
lyrics for some lovely animal magic.
Whitehall (01323 42044). Tomorrow-
Sat, 2.30 and 7pm; until Jan 13.

BIRMINGHAM
Domen Day, Nyles Dawn Porter and
Colin Baker star in Mike Read's
acclaimed adaptation of Great
Expectations. A nationwide tour is due
to follow.
Alexandra (0121-643 1231). Tonight,
7.30pm. Until Feb 17.

THEATRE GUIDE
Jeremy Kingston's assessment
of theatre showing in London

• **House full, returns only**
• **Some seats available**
• **Seats at all prices**

• **AN INSPECTOR CALLS** Stephen
Dodd's powerful production, with
Nicholas Woodeson as the all-knowing
Inspector, and Edward Pugh and Susan
Garratt as the pliers of society.
Barnham, St. Paul, SE1 (0171-638
8891). Mon-Fri, 7.45pm; Sat,
8.15pm; mats Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 3pm.

• **PRIVATE ON PARADE** Tony
Slatery plays the impressively camp
entertainer in Peter Nichols's comedy
with music, set in an Army Camp Party
in 1948. Paul Clayton directs.
Greenwich, Odeon, SE10 (0181-
7750). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Sat,
2.30pm.

• **RETURN TO THE FORBIDDEN
PLANET** A marvellously mad mix of The
Tempest with Great Balls of Fire and
other comic bits of the 1950s and
1960s.
Sheffield, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2
(0171-374 3743). Mon-Thurs, 8pm; Fri
and Sat, 8pm and 9.30pm.

• **ROSEMARY AND GILBERT** Adrian
Gardner and Simon Russell Beale
play Stoppard's splendid farce.
National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1
(0171-228 2232). Tonight, 7.30pm.

• **THE SHAKESPEARE REVUE** A
way of seeing the student's last
year, with a programme of Royal and
Laurie's. Assembled by Christopher
Lumcombe and Malcolm McKelvie.
National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1
(0171-228 2232). Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat,
8.30pm; mats Wed, 2.30pm and Sat,
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• **THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS**
Jeremy Kingston plays the student's last
year, with a programme of Royal and
Laurie's. Assembled by Christopher
Lumcombe and Malcolm McKelvie.
National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1
(0171-228 2232). Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat,
8.30pm; mats Wed, 2.30pm and Sat,
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• **LONG RUNNERS**
• **Blind** (PG) A powerful play about
a blind man's journey. Directed by
David Hare. National (Lyttelton),
South Bank, SE1 (0171-228 2232).
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CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of
films in London and (where
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Band raises tempo of sombre Test

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TIMES SPORT

MONDAY JANUARY 1 1996

HE SHOOTS, HE SCORES - BUT NOT FOR ENGLAND



Shearer strikes for his hundredth Premiership goal for Blackburn Rovers, the second in a 2-1 victory against Tottenham Hotspur on Saturday, then begins the celebrations with his team-mates. Photographs: Stewart Kendall

Shearer runs up Premiership century in 124 games

Hundred-goal enigma

Rob Hughes, football correspondent, on a striker who never seems to fail for his club but seldom succeeds for his country

THE strike was deadly, and somehow the epitome of English football in 1995. Alan Shearer, his back to goal outside the penalty area, suddenly twisted and turned away from Gary Mabbutt and drove the ball, violently, decisively beyond the reach of Ian Walker, the Tottenham Hotspur goalkeeper. Ewood Park, built, it sometimes seems, as a steel monument to the reliable goalscoring of Shearer, erupted in celebration of him becoming, easily, the first man to hit 100 goals since the FA Carling Premiership began 3½ years ago.

For sheer strength of mind and muscle, for his refusal to be inhibited either by serious knee injury or by the knocks of his trade, Shearer deservedly stands ahead of Les Ferdinand, 78 Premiership goals, Andy Cole, 72, Ian Wright, 66, and the apprentice, Robbie Fowler, already 53.

Yet, when Shearer swaps the blue and white of Blackburn Rovers for the white of England, he is like Superman without his cape. He has had a barren year. In fact, it is 15 months, and ten international goals, since Shearer last scored. When representing Blackburn in Europe, he also loses the plot: his only goal in six Champions' League games this season came from the penalty spot.

Ten of Shearer's 34 league goals last season were also penalties; but back to the hundredth Alan Shearer Premiership goal, scored in his 124th game. Perhaps Mabbutt could have sensed which way Shearer would turn and strikes; after all, his right foot is

the renowned finishing tool. In addition, Walker, England's No 3 goalkeeper, did not look alert when the ball came, like a missile, his way. Is this, perhaps, one reason why Shearer is so irreplaceable on home soil, and less so when the opponents are foreign? There can be three avenues of investigation:

(a) That Shearer does not carry the same conviction into the England shirt

(b) That he is not served as well as he readily admits he is at the heart of the Blackburn machine

(c) That overseas footballers are cleverer, read the game, anticipate, and intercept

One can use the analogy of motor racing. Blackburn Rovers could be like the racing car, set up specifically for him - for his build, his movement, his intent - rather like the Formula One car prepared for Michael Schumacher. Mike Newell, for example, is the primer, the provider, the selfless runner who sets up so much for Shearer.

That is not to say that anyone else could emulate his consistency. Look at the man, and you see a willingness to trade English blows for blow. Listen to him and you hear the same repetitive explanation: that he could never score his goals were it not for the good and the great players around him. Dare one ask if the providers of Blackburn are, by this definition, more accom-

plished, more attuned to Shearer, than those of the England national team?

If you wish to irritate him, then do so. He will repeat, again and again, that he never has voiced disaffection with his role, often as the lone out-and-out striker, in Terry Venables's line-up. "Of course I wish I'd scored more times for England," he said, "but you don't always get exactly what you want in this game."

That does not, however, answer the conundrum. There is not a hint of suggestion that Shearer ever gives less than his best for anyone. Indeed, if ever a man's physical effort, his straining to do well for the team, could transfer itself to the eyes of the onlooker, then one would never question Shearer's input.

My own suspicion is that his wonderful straightforward approach, built on strength and unerring expectation of scoring, lacks the guile for international football. There he faces not one, but two opponents - a marker attempting to stick closer than a brother to his hide, and a sweeper, a spare defender ever

lurking and watchful, ready once Shearer turns away from his marker as he did from Mabbutt on Saturday.

Yet England have failed, for those ten matches and more, to "rest" Shearer, to see if someone swifter, more cunning, almost as prolific, might better suit international requirements. I think of Ferdinand, without claiming that he could ever outscore Shearer, the best of his breed in England, but just might get internationally.

Down the years, nobody has transferred from league football to the international scene more readily for England than Jimmy Greaves, who scored 357 times in 514 league games, and 44 goals in 57 international matches for his country. Gerd Müller, the German who struck 628 goals for Bayern Munich and 68 goals in 62 international matches, once told me that there is no difference between club and national team duty.

"I have this instinct for knowing when a defence is going to relax, or when a defender will make a mistake," Müller said. "Something inside me says, 'Gerd, go this way, Gerd, go that.' I don't know what it is."

No living Englishman knows, either, why Shearer can appear to apply the same philosophy playing for his club yet lose the instinct for England. If it is not the opposition, nor the way that the formation is set up around him, then we shall go to Euro 96 collectively scratching our heads about the goalscorer who is both the best and the most barren in our colours.

HITS AND MISSES FOR CLUB AND COUNTRY			
*Shearer scored 23 goals in 110 games for Southampton in the old first division.			
PLAYER	GOALS	GAMES	RATIO goals per game
ALAN SHEARER* For Blackburn For England	100 5	124 21	0.806 0.238
England's leading scorers: (league and international career records)			
BOBBY CHARLTON For club For England	207 49	644 106	0.321 0.462
GARRY LINEKER For club For England	192 48	340 80	0.565 0.600
JIMMY GREAVES For club For England	357 44	514 57	0.695 0.772

Thunderer rises to national challenge

THE TIMES has won the top tipsters' award for 1995. As Thunderer, The Times racing team scooped the Racing Post National Press Challenge, finishing nearly £70 ahead of their nearest rival, Templegate, of The Sun.

The award completes a memorable double for The Times. In December, Richard Evans, racing correspondent, was voted racing journalist of the year.

The challenge, which runs for a calendar year, is open to the national daily newspapers, plus the Racing Post and The Sporting Life. Competitors begin with a bank of £1,000, from which £1 is staked on selections at all the main meetings. Thunderer ended the year with the largest bank - £762.50.

The Times team showed consistency by lifting the monthly prize three times and, with 1,963 successes, selected the second highest number of winners. They included a host of long-priced winners such as Time Clash (25-1) and Wren Warbler (20-1).

Dick Hinder, the racing editor, said: "It was an achievement beating the specialist tipsters at their own game, and the members of the racing desk - George Rae, Rob Wright, James Willoughby and Vince Wright - all played their part. It was a team effort and we were rewarded for our consistency."

Final table, page 28

OVERWORKED, UNDERFED...



...and fit to drop!

In North Africa and the Middle East, animals are made to carry breathtakingly heavy loads for miles in the blistering heat. Thirsty, overworked and underfed, their legs teeter on the brink of collapse.

Last Friday on BBC1, John Craven's *Animal Sanctuary* showed how SPANA is helping to relieve their suffering through our animal refuges and mobile clinics, and by teaching owners the right way to care for their animals. Please send a gift today. Just £15 keeps a donkey fed and rested for a week.

SPANAs, FREEPOST (SW6 038),
15 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6YY

To: SPANA, FREEPOST (SW6 038),
15 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6YY.
Here is my gift to help relieve an animal's suffering
(cheques payable to SPANA):

£15 ☐ £25 ☐ £50 ☐ Other ☐

Or please debit my Access/Visa/American Express/Diners/CAF

Card No.

Expiry Date: Signature:

Name

Address

Postcode

Registered Charity No. 209015 Tel. 0171 828 0997

SPANAs
PROTECTING ANIMALS' NEEDS

It may be live, but is it worth taking time out?

Normally, this column is unassuming in its commitment to sport being shown live on television. Overseas cricket tours, Formula One grands prix, international golf and many, many other events, are now shown live on terrestrial and satellite television as a matter of course — regardless of the hour of the day. If catching it live means setting the alarm clock for the wee small hours, then so be it.

Every rule, though, has its exception. Then certainly its sticking point for me, the very stickiest point is American football. At its simplest, the question is this — are any of our lives long enough to regularly dedicate the best part of 3½ hours to watching a huge number of huge men battering the shoulder pads out of each other?

I realise that, so soon after our national cricket team has spent a full five days achieving a draw with South Africa (leaving the series, after four games, thrillingly poised at 0-0), it is perhaps not the best time for Little Englanders to start throwing stones at other people's glasshouses, but what the heck? If tennis has started to worry about the time its top players spend not playing tennis, then it seems legitimate for this column to worry about the amount of time that we viewers spend not watching American football.

This new year holiday, for instance, traditionally one of the busiest and exciting times for the game, it could have been an awful lot. Sky showed two live games over the weekend, kicking off with the American Football Confer-



MATTHEW BOND
TV ACTION REPLAY

ence play-off match between Buffalo Bills and Miami Dolphins followed by the National Football Conference game yesterday between Atlanta Falcons and Green Bay Packers, while tonight, NBC Superchannel is showing the Rose Bowl, the top college game. All in all, that is more than ten hours of television for three hours of actual play.

The committed enthusiasts, of course, will have loved every live minute of it — and got through several crates of

beer in the much-interrupted process.

This core following is precisely the sort of supporter that the satellite channel is after, bringing in, as it does, an audience that would be rated insignificant by terrestrial broadcasters but very significant indeed by satellite standards.

The fact that Channel 4, still probably American football's most visible promoter in this country, has to work in the ratings-ruled world of terrestrial television is reflected in its coverage. After experimenting with live Sunday night games, the channel has returned to showing recorded highlights on Monday night, although this was shifted to last night for new year.

The channel argues that the normal day's delay allows the Atlanta-based team of Trans World International (producer of both *The American Football Big Match* and the stubbornly backward-looking *Blitz* for the channel) to pick the best of the weekend's games and fit it into a more manageable 90 minutes.

For those truly committed to the "live is best" principle, the alternative is to try to second-guess the best of the weekend's fixtures, often several weeks in advance. Get it right and you are fished on all sides, get it wrong and you are committed

SPORT IN BRIEF

Lane recovers to set up final with Frost

BARRY LANE, the Europe Ryder Cup player from Berkshire, reached the final of the inaugural Andersen Consulting World Championship of Golf at Scottsdale, Arizona, when he came from behind to beat Masahiro Kuramoto, of Japan, by two holes (Mel Webb writes).

Lane, who numbered Severiano Ballesteros and Bernhard Langer among his victims in the European section of the tournament, was two holes down at one stage, but played the more composed golf on the inward nine to put him into the 36-hole final against David Frost, of South Africa, with the winner taking home £660,000 and the runner-up £330,000. Frost, the only seeded player to reach the final stages, holed a six-foot birdie putt at the 17th to defeat Mark McCumber 2 and 1 in the other semi-final.

Cup hosts shocked

FOOTBALL: South African football officials have expressed shock and disappointment at Nigeria's withdrawal from the African nations' cup. The reigning champions have pulled out of the tournament this month after the players had received death threats. Solomon Morewa, the South African Football Association president, said that the Nigerians had been assured that they would be safe to compete. Clive Barker, the South Africa coach, said: "As a coach and a player, I am very, very disappointed." Nelson Mandela, the South Africa president, wants an international boycott of Nigeria after the executions, in November, of nine minority rights activists by the military government.

Laitinen injured

SKI JUMPING: Mika Laitinen, of Finland, was badly injured in a fall in practice in Garmisch-Partenkirchen yesterday. Laitinen, who leads the World Cup standings after winning five of nine events so far this season, was taken to hospital after breaking his left collarbone and five ribs on his first practice jump for the New Year's Day competition. Laitinen, 22, will remain in hospital for several days for observation and is expected to be out of competition for at least two months.

Successful return

TENNIS: Marc Rosset, right, marked his return to the game after an operation by securing victory for Switzerland on the opening day of the Hopman Cup mixed team tournament in Perth. Rosset beat Mark Philippoussis 6-3, 6-3 in the second singles as Switzerland comfortably overcame Australia 2-1 in their group B round-robin match. Martina Hingis also won her match, against Nicole Pietrangeli 6-7, 6-3, 6-3. The Australians scored a consolation doubles victory.



Steelers feel the cold

ICE HOCKEY: The match between Sheffield Steelers and Basingstoke Bison on Saturday evening was postponed because of icy conditions, which prevented a bus company from taking the Hampshire team to Yorkshire. The Steelers were thus deprived of an opportunity to join Cardiff Devils at the head of the premier division. Nottingham Panthers took an early 4-0 lead against Slough Jets and then survived late pressure to hold on for a 10-6 win to remain in third place.

Weather suits Midlands

HOCKEY: Bad weather brought a disappointing end to the divisional tournament at Bristol, where play was abandoned on the third and final day on Saturday. The issue was still in doubt with one match to be played between Midlands and South West in both the under-17 and under-15 age-groups. On the basis of the results and performances of the first two days, however, Midlands were declared the winners and South West were deemed the runners-up in both categories.

England ring changes

BOWLS: Only three members of the England team that won two bronze medals in the 1992 world championships at Ayr — Norma Shaw, Mary Price and Jean Baker — have been retained for the women's world championship in Royal Leamington Spa from August 3 to 18. Edna Bessell and Barbara Till have been left out this time, while Shaw has surprisingly been relieved of her singles berth.

TEAM, Singles: V. Lee (Hampshire), P. Price (Buckinghamshire), M. Shaw (Durham), T. Bessell (Leicestershire), J. Baker (Derbyshire), M. Price (Buckinghamshire), F. Shaw (Baker, Fitzgibbon, Price).

Hall takes clear lead

BADMINTON: A comfortable 15-7, 15-1 victory over Colin Houghton in Portsmouth gave Darren Hall a commanding lead in the Friends Provident grand slam rankings after three tournaments. Joanne Muggeridge cruised to a convincing 11-4, 11-3 victory in the women's event over Tracey Hallam, who was playing in the first of three finals on the same day. She and Lee Bossey lost in the mixed doubles to Julian Robertson and Lorraine Coles, but with Tracey Middleton, she won the women's doubles.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm)	Conditions	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	Last snow
ANDORRA					
Soldeu	20 80	good powder	fair	cloud	-5 31/12
		(Excellent shung after 15cm of fresh powder)			
AUSTRIA					
Hitzbühl	20 75	good heavy	at	cloud	1 27/12
		(Generally good but odd heavy patch on busy pistes)			
Mayrhofen	5 40	fair varied	closed	cloud	-2 26/12
		(Hatched snow on most pistes; fresh snow forecast)			
St Anton	25 180	good powder	fair	snow	-4 31/12
		(Excellent snow conditions but poor visibility)			
FRANCE					
Alpe d'Huez	80 210	good heavy	good	cloud	1 31/12
		(Excellent piste skiing with new snow, avalanche risk)			
Les Arcs	35 180	good powder	good	snow	0 31/12
		(Generally excellent but odd heavy patch on lower slopes)			
Avoriaz	45 85	good varied	worn	snow	-2 31/12
		(Heavy conditions on lower runs, good higher up)			
Tignes	80 135	good varied	good	snow	-1 31/12
		(All runs and links finally open, excellent shung)			
ITALY					
Cervinia	30 250	good powder	good	cloud	-3 31/12
		(All pistes continue to give excellent shung)			
SWITZERLAND					
C Montana	20 100	good powder	closed	snow	-1 31/12
		(Good skiing on and off piste, snowing for most of day)			
Mürren	35 130	good powder	good	snow	0 31/12
		(Poor visibility at altitude but good powder)			
Verbier	70 110	good powder	worn	snow	-1 31/12
		(Excellent moguls developing on Mont Fort, no queues)			
Zermatt	10 80	good crusty	worn	cloud	-4 27/12
		(Higher runs still good, lower worn and icy)			

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain L - lower slopes U - upper art - artificial

Born-again Wigan aim for seventh title success

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

WEATHER and results permitting, Wigan can kick-start another potential *annus mirabilis* today by taking their consecutive haul of Stones Championship titles to seven. It will be the last before an about-turn in the rugby league calendar, which sees the season switching to the spring and summer months.

What has been a formality almost since September — at no point have Wigan, who are at present four points clear of Leeds, been led — will be completed, provided that the game's perennial champions win their match at Warrington, starting at noon, and St Helens terminate the mathematical interest of Leeds three hours later.

With Wilderspool and Knowsley Road emerging from deep freeze — both grounds are subject to early-morning inspections — victories for Warrington and Leeds would only put off the inevitable.

For Wigan, 1996 will be an

TOP OF TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Wigan	15	14	0	2	257	242	28
2 Leeds	17	12	0	5	244	231	24
3 St Helens	16	10	0	6	252	251	20
4 Halifax	15	9	0	6	262	269	18

REMAINING FIXTURES: Wigan: Today, Warrington (a), January 21; Leeds (h), 22; St Helens (a), 23; Bradford Bulls (h), 24; Leeds: Today, St Helens (a), January 10; Oldham (h), January 21; Wigan (a), 22.

altogether more demanding year. Will the Challenge Cup, Wigan's since 1988, be a distracting preamble to the start of the Super League at the end of March? Being the best in Great Britain is one thing, champions of the world Super League is quite another.

The Wigan team that beat Brisbane Broncos in the last world club challenge, in 1994, was as no less dominant domestically, but, rather than any vast improvement on their part, dramatic reversals in the fortunes of several past contenders for the Stones Championship have ensured that Wigan remain on their pedestal.

However, they no longer have the services of exceptional players such as Denis Betts, Phil Clark and Frano Botica, leaving the lightest squad at Central Park for years. Shem Tatupu, the former Western Samoa rugby union player, represented the only significant signing in 1995, which has left Shaun Edwards, Wigan captain, at odds with

Foster finds a home for cross country

David Powell looks at the unique form of an athletics boom in the North East

IT MAY be only athletics and not football, but there is something Keeganesque about Brendan Foster's contribution to his chosen sport and life in the North East of England. Foster, once the star performer, now directs a show that is the most prominent in Great Britain.

The London Marathon apart, almost every leading road or cross country event in Britain takes place in the North East, organised by Foster. The exception is a series of road races around Britain, but these, too, are Foster's.

He has produced the Great North Run, the Newcastle city centre road race, the Northumberland Castles challenge series, the world cross country championships, the European championships and the Durham international. Even the British trials are held in Foster country.

In the same way that Kevin Keegan's success with Newcastle United has brightened the existence of thousands of Geordies, Foster's inauguration of the Great North Run has changed the lives of many

Results 24

by influencing them to run. "It is not seeing 30,000 people lined up on the day that gives me the greatest pleasure, but seeing them go for runs on a Tuesday night in Darlington, or Morpeth, or ..." Foster said, his list of towns endless.

There were the usual murmurings over the weekend, at the latest event in the list of Foster productions, that the sport is lining his pockets while it loses money. One coach wondered why prize money was so low, and once again it was being said that Foster should not be commenting for the BBC on an event in which he has a commercial interest. Would he criticise it if criticism was necessary?

Foster defends his position as head of Nova International, which put on the Bupa Co Durham cross country on Saturday, and his BBC involvement. A conflict of interests? "If I am being accused of using a dual position to benefit the sport, then I am guilty," he said. "People say I have got a vested interest, but it's a dual interest."

The plain fact is that, without Nova, cross country in Britain would have left the premiership long ago. The British Athletic Federation's commitment has been almost non-existent. "If we were not doing it, who else would be?" Foster said. "This is an important day for cross country because it is the only event live on Grandstand. The rugby league has been cancelled, the



Radcliffe, with Liz Talbot tracking her, leads the women's field confidently at Durham

racing has been cancelled; but, over all these years, we have never been embraced by the federation.

"We have always been treated poorly, shabbily. Nova are the biggest sponsors of British athletics and, if I was to treat my biggest sponsors the way the British federation treats us, I would not have any left."

Commercially, Northumberland and Durham councils, which support the events, are on to a winner. The television exposure has contributed towards a 40 per cent rise in tourism and, when the world championships were staged in Durham last year, about £500,000 was spent locally over the two days.

"Of course it is commercial, there are no philanthropists," John Caine, Nova's events manager, said. "If this event did not make a profit, we would cancel it." Yet, like Foster, a former 3,000 metres world record-holder, Caine was an international athlete with empathy for the runners of today.

On Saturday, the snow caused Caine to rethink his course. "I had to chop out a lot



Foster: flying the flag for North East

of the farmland because it is ruined," Caine said. "The welfare of the athletes is more important than the event. I do not want Paula's Olympic year ruined because she wrecked her ankle on a farmer's field in Durham."

Paula — that is, Paula Radcliffe, Britain's former world junior cross-country champion — respected the benefit of that decision, winning the women's race. Asella Mezgebu, of Ethiopia, the world junior champion, was first home in the men's event.

Eagles swoop to take spoils

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

DETROIT Lions suffered the bewildering experience of scoring 37 points in their National Football League (NFL) play-off against Philadelphia Eagles, only to find themselves beaten by more than 20. The result, 58-37, represented the highest points aggregate in an NFL play-off game.

Rodney Peete threw two first-half touchdowns passes and Barry Wilburn and William Thomas returned interceptions for scores for the Eagles, who, in one run of play, recorded 44 unanswered points.

For the Lions, it was the type of play-off scenario that they have witnessed all too often. Despite entering the game with a seven-game winning

run behind them, they capitulated to their eighth defeat in nine play-off games. They have not won a post-season game on the road since 1957.

Their misery started early as Philadelphia intercepted Scott Mitchell three times in the first half, with each turnover leading to a touchdown.

From a defensive standpoint, we got a lot of turnovers," Ray Rhodes, the Eagles coach, said. "We created pressure on the quarterback early in the game."

Wayne Fontes, the Lions' coach, was suitably contrite. "They beat us in every way possible," he said. "They deserved to win. We turned the ball over seven or eight times and you can't do that in a play-off game."

BCF to organise world event

By PETER BRYAN

THE British Cycling Federation (BCF) last night announced that it would be appointing its own organising team for the world track championships this year, which are taking place at the Manchester velodrome from August 28 to September 1. The decision follows what the BCF described as "a failure to agree final terms" with Sport For Television Group Limited.

Last year, the BCF contracted Sport For Television Limited (which has since had three name changes) to organise the world series, but, at the annual meeting last month, BCF delegates were told that Sport For Television Group Limited, its successor company, was in financial trouble.

Sport For Television Group

Limited pulled out of organising, at short notice, four planned track meetings at Manchester last year, including the national championships, the running of which the BCF took over.

The decision to take over the world championships organisation was made at a special board meeting of the BCF on Saturday, which was called by Tony Doyle, its new president, who ousted Ian Emmons, the president for ten years, just a fortnight earlier. All eight BCF directors were present at the meeting, together with Emmons, who was invited to attend as a director of the BCF promotion company that will now be responsible for the championships.

For several years, Doyle,

twice world professional pursuit champion and Great Britain's most successful six-day rider, has had close business links with Sport For Television, acting as a consultant. The international cycling union has agreed to subsidise the championship series with a grant of £289,000, of which the BCF would retain £50,000. The balance of £239,000 was to have been paid to Sport For Television under the terms of the original contract. This will now go to BCF Promotions Limited in nine equal monthly payments, starting next week.

The world series was first held in Britain for the first time since the Second World War in 1970 and returned in 1982, on both occasions at the outdoor track at Leicester.

SPORT IN BRIEF

recovers to set
al with Frost

...the first England Test series in South Africa for three decades will be remembered as damp and dreary unless there is a fundamental change of attitude when the final match begins in Cape Town tomorrow.

lost shocked

Blame was being scattered widely and irrationally here yesterday, after a stultifying conclusion to the fourth Test, at St George's Park. The truth is simple, if unpalatable. The game was consigned to oblivion because neither side dared to lose, and if that approach prevails at Newlands this week, then a 0-0 draw, only the fifth in a full series of Tests, will not easily be avoided.

ten injured

South Africa has suddenly taken against Michael Atherton, firstly through inflated indignation over his reaction to being given out on the third day of the game and now because he is popularly being held responsible for the negative outcome. In the nation's top Sunday newspaper, a large photograph of Atherton smiling appeared beneath the front-page headline "Spoilsport": it was not meant to be flattering, but neither was it fair.

ssful return

Whatever criticisms may apply to Atherton for his influence upon the tedium of Saturday, more must be directed towards Hansie Cronje, his South African counterpart, whose disinclination to employ his most attacking bowlers and to set appropriate fields betrayed a revealing lack of faith in the ability of his team to bowl out England.

ers feel the cold

England had been chasing the game from the moment that they lost the toss, and although a flurry of wickets on Friday afternoon offered them an unexpected sight of victory, it was so fleeting as to be illusory. On a pitch prohibiting aggression, and with a slow outfield, the odds against them scoring 308 runs on the final day were enormous, yet Cronje appeared to think differently.

ther suits Midland

This was the second time in the series that the South Africa bowlers failed to finish the job when circumstances favoured them; here, they did not even come close. Yesterday, Cronje ought to have been asking himself whether he gave out the right signals of intent or whether, as the England players privately believe, he transmitted only an instinct for self-preservation, a paranoia about losing.

stand ring change

South Africa have lost none of their past nine Tests under Cronje, a record of which he can be justly proud. Against England, however, it has been necessary sometimes to venture a risk or two in the quest for victory, and Cronje has been unwilling to do it. On Friday morning, he was personally assured by Ali Bacher, the managing director of the United Cricket Board of South Africa, that nothing would be held against him if he lost the match in the effort of trying to win it. Evidently, it was a wasted message.

all takes clear lead

In fairness, this was a difficult pitch to win on and it was only because England batted so poorly in their first innings, and South Africa so carelessly in their second, that anything other than a draw entered the equation. Those with long memories say that Port Elizabeth has always produced such slow surfaces, in which case the fact that this

Home captain's fear of defeat threatens to cast Test series into oblivion Cronje lacks courage to end stalemate

FROM ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
IN PORT ELIZABETH

PORT ELIZABETH (final day of five): South Africa drew with England

AFTER the years of longing and the months of anticipation, the first England Test series in South Africa for three decades will be remembered as damp and dreary unless there is a fundamental change of attitude when the final match begins in Cape Town tomorrow.

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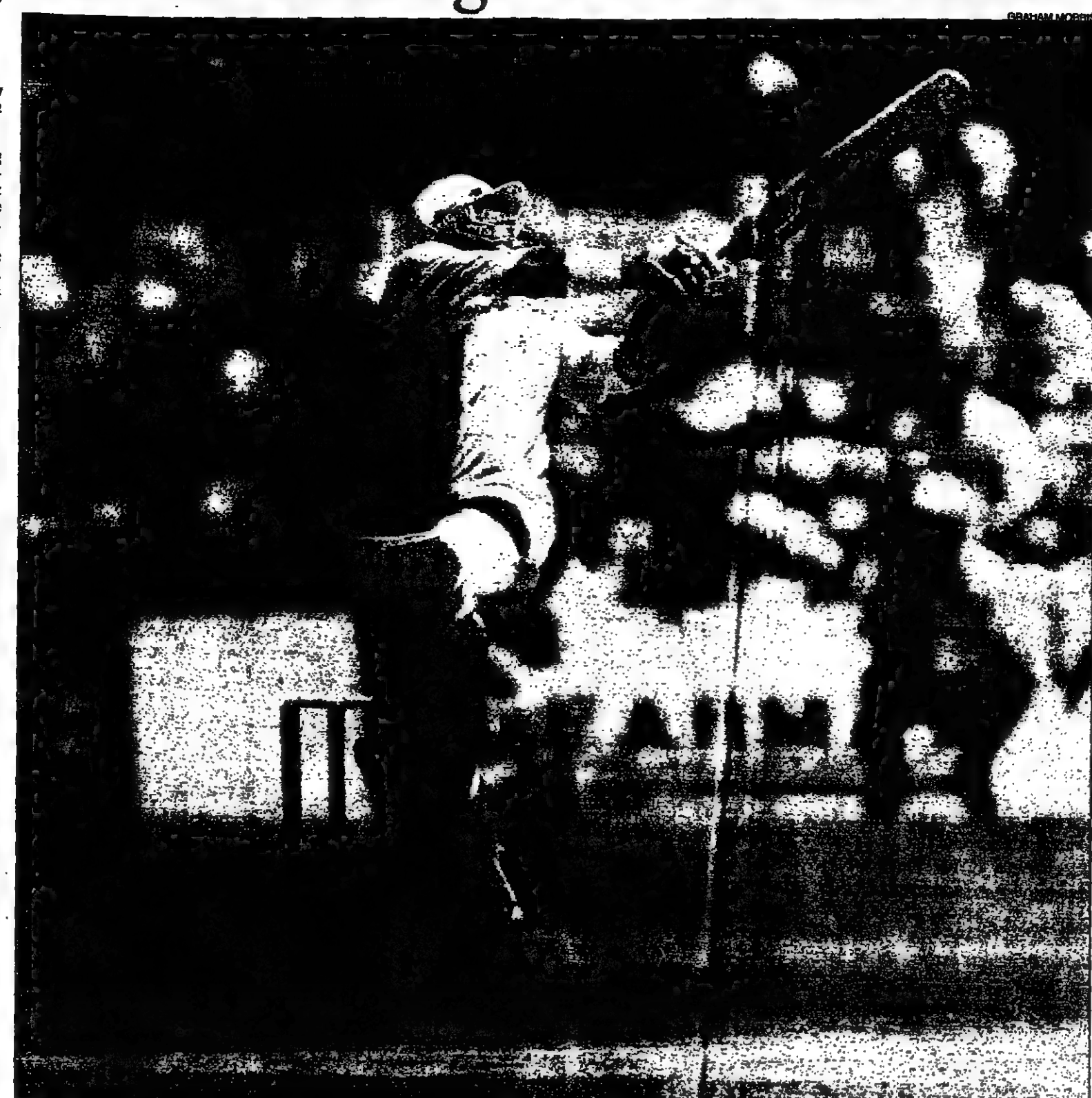
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Stewart fails to connect with a rare aggressive shot against the bowling of Donald during his match-saving innings in Port Elizabeth

was only the second draw in 14 Tests at the ground is a bewildering statistic. The crowd, more than 60,000 over the five days, sat patiently through it all, sustained as much by the marvellous brass band as by the cricket. Tolerance will wear thin in Cape Town, where more than 103,000 tickets have been sold and capacity houses are virtually guaranteed.

The Newlands groundsman is Andy Adkins, whose final Test pitch at Edgbaston, where he worked until 1993, helped to give Atherton's tenure as captain a bleak start. The usual pitch guesswork is further complicated because a relay strip is being used and only after careful study of it will the England management decide if it can take the attacking option and play an additional bowler, promoting Robin Smith to No 3.

At least one change has been forced upon England by the thigh injury to Mark Butcher, and Angus Fraser will probably have a chance to revive his career once more. He has reacted admirably since being dropped for the third Test, working extensively on his physical fitness as well as bowling for hour after hour in the nets. "I feel I could run in and bowl in a blindfold at the moment," he said.

Alastair Stewart has occasionally looked as if he was batting blindfold during this series and his position as Atherton's opening partner was under increased threat after his thoughtless first-innings dismissal. By batting through all but the dregs of Saturday for 81 — his first half-century as an opener in 18 Test innings — he not only ensured that this game was safe but also guaranteed that he would be playing in the next one.

Stewart needed his luck, especially against Allan Donald, whose figures are a mockery of the constant threat that he presented. In mid-afternoon, when he defeated Stewart comprehensively, only to see the ball take a thin inside edge and whistle past leg stump for four, Donald sank slowly and symbolically to his knees. Two hours later, with the game long since comatose, he finally got his man.

Bafflingly, Cronje kept Paul Adams waiting for his first bowl until 15 minutes before lunch, and it was not entirely explained by his preference for a softer ball. By then, the opening hour, in which England scored an encouraging 43, had given way to a pedestrian pace and, early though it was, one sensed that both teams had already settled on the outcome.

Adams, nevertheless, operated for most of the remaining play and, for one of such novice status, was deeply impressive. He made greater use of the chinaman than in the first innings and, though it is telegraphed by a change of action and is invariably bowled flatter and quicker than the gooply, it caused problems and took a wicket. Jason Gallian's vigilant 28 ending with a misjudgment.

The 232 minutes spent at the crease by Atherton, for 34 runs, increased his batting time for the series beyond 25 hours. The South African media appears to think that he has outstayed his welcome, but Atherton has aggregated 380 runs and Cronje a mere 101. In all senses, the latter is the captain carrying the greater burden into the final Test.

Very rarely in a Test match played in glorious weather, and lasting the full five days, can an adjudicator have had such difficulty finding a worthy winner of the man-of-the-match award.

That, itself, is a commentary on the cricket. It was not inappropriate that Gary Kirsten, who was chosen for his two half-centuries, is a dogged, unquestionably limited performer. Nobody at any stage managed really to impose himself on the match, unless it was Martin at the start of South Africa's second innings when his figures, after an hour's play, were a remarkable 7-7-0-2.

Of the 11 former Test captains that I have watched in action in South Africa — Clive van Ryneveld, Jackie McGlew, Trevor Goddard, Peter van der Merwe, Ali Bacher and Kepler Wessels of the home country, Peter May and Mike Smith of England, and Bobby Simpson and Bill Lawry of Australia — none was renowned for his boldness. When they won Test matches, it was mainly because they had the bowlers to do it for them.

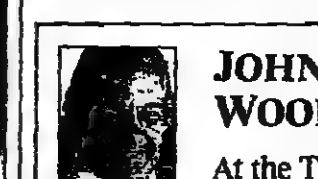
Otherwise, they were neither more or less broody than Atherton and Cronje. It helps, too, of course, to have in one's side batsmen of the calibre of Graeme Pollock and Barry Richards.

Flying down from Port Elizabeth to Cape Town yesterday, I was reminded of the flight that we had into Cape Town from Johannesburg exactly 39 years ago, when the English and South African teams were in separate aircraft.

On the way, England's plane was overtaken by South Africa's, visible on the starboard side, and the captain of England's flight conveyed the following message from the South African cricketers: "So, you fly as slowly as you bat."

On Christmas Eve, the first day of the Test series, Peter Richardson had batted all day for England and made only 69. On Boxing Day, England crawled along to 268, made in 118.5 eight-ball overs. Yet they won the match because they had the bowling to do so.

Bold strokes in short supply especially from the captains



JOHN WOODCOCK
At the Test

It was a pity that the fourth Test between South Africa and England had to finish in anticlimax in Port Elizabeth on Saturday, though it was all too predictable that it would. Neither side was prepared to take any sort of a risk in going for victory, and the groundsman had produced a pitch that looked at the end as though it would have lasted another five days.

If not the curse of Test cricket, the fear of losing has always been a constant factor. Occasionally, someone like Michael Slater comes along and dashes away with the smoothing iron, but there are very few with the ability and the spirit and the confidence to do that.

The second hour of play on Saturday was conclusive enough. Because England had scored 43 in the first hour, towards the 308 that they needed in the day, South Africa dropped the field back and nothing happened. England, even with all their wickets intact, went for half an hour without scoring a run off the bat, and the first 105 minutes of the morning passed without Adams, South Africa's "secret weapon", getting a bowl. By lunch, therefore, all was revealed.

It made for a ponderous day's cricket, lightened only when Adams was bowling and by the presence in the crowd of a brass band with a catchy, albeit limited, repertoire. The atmosphere that this created was wonderfully convivial. Up to a point, it alleviated the stodginess of what was going on in the middle.

Very rarely in a Test match played in glorious weather, and lasting the full five days, can an adjudicator have had such difficulty finding a worthy winner of the man-of-the-match award.

That, itself, is a commentary on the cricket. It was not inappropriate that Gary Kirsten, who was chosen for his two half-centuries, is a dogged, unquestionably limited performer. Nobody at any stage managed really to impose himself on the match, unless it was Martin at the start of South Africa's second innings when his figures, after an hour's play, were a remarkable 7-7-0-2.

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Although he was less destructive than had been widely anticipated, seeing Adams bowl was the match's main attraction. He was a breath of fresh air.

South Africa's faster bowling asks some serious questions of the batsmen, but, after a while, it becomes increasingly tedious to watch. Trevor Bailey, as well-versed a pundit as there is, and a commentator in Port Elizabeth, contended there that the South Africa attack was as relentless in its efficiency as any that they can ever have fielded. They certainly know how to make themselves very difficult to plunder, but the line and length which they use to do so are often too mean to be really menacing.

In 1956-57, Bailey himself played against a much better-balanced attack and, to my mind, a distinctly stronger one. If Donald and young Shaun Pollock are the equal of Peter Heine and Neil Adcock, there was a finesse about Hugh Tayfield and Goddard all those years ago, that would, I think, have won the Test match for South Africa on Saturday. Tayfield was a fiendishly effective bowler when there was tension in the air.

But that is a diversion. Adams's future is difficult to predict. He is nothing like as perplexing as Shane Warne, mainly because he bowls only googlies and has no comparable powers of spin. He has a flatter, quicker ball that runs on towards the leg stump, but it is not a chinaman. His grip of the ball, between forefinger and thumb, is so extraordinary, and his action so twisted, that one wonders whether he can ever command the chinaman or, for that matter, avoid having trouble with his back.

One can well see that, on a dusty pitch, one that enhances his spin, he could run through a side; but, in Test cricket, he is going to find precious few of those. At Port Elizabeth, on a pitch that held together too well and was short of bounce, his bowling, for all its fascination, lacked variety.

Against that, he is still only 18 and in the early stages of the learning process. If he does have a fruitful Test career, the game will be much the more entertaining for it.

Warne reaches third Test half-century

SHANE WARNE became the first bowler in the history of Test cricket to take 50 wickets in a calendar year for three years in succession as he and Glenn McGrath quickly wrapped up the Sri Lanka second innings at Melbourne on Saturday.

Australia, needing only 41 runs for victory to take a winning 2-0 lead in the series, knocked off the runs in 7.4 overs to win by ten wickets.

Warne, who did the hat-trick against England on the same ground last winter, had an opportunity to repeat the feat after getting rid of Wickremaratne and Muralitharan with successive deliveries, only for Jayantha Silva, who was playing his first Test, to foil his fellow spinner.

Arjuna Ranatunga, the Sri Lanka captain, who needed a pain-killing injection in an injured hand, was unbeaten during the match, but McGrath closed, Warne and McGrath each having taken two wickets in the brief passage of play. Sri Lanka, having resumed at 284 for six, managed only 23 more runs, having entertained hopes of being able to set some sort of fourth-innings target.

Brass band steals a march on the Barmy Army

WHAT better way to get away from the miseries of an English winter than to travel abroad to support the England cricket team? It is an increasingly popular pursuit, as the mindless antics of the Barmy Army have recently made people aware.

Some 2,000 Englishmen were in Port Elizabeth for the fourth Test match and at least 3,000 are expected for the fifth Test in Cape Town tomorrow. These excursions are not simply about watching sport; they are about sun, sea, sand and serendipity.

The Englishmen at St George's Park in Port Elizabeth on Saturday who went along with an open mind got the treat of a lifetime. They forgot their seats in the impressive but soulless Duck Pond Pavilion that their travel companies had reserved and migrated to the unreserved seats in the old grandstand, where a perch on the roughly-hewn terracing cost just nine rand (about £1.80).

Simon Wilde finds that local musicians called the tune during the fourth Test

There would be a demand for an England wicket; slightly more often a salute to Paul Adams, the Cape Coloured, who is the first but by no means the last exotic bird to come out of the new South Africa. Far more important was another rendition of *Stand By Me*.

Not only did the newly enfranchised peoples of South Africa bring themselves to these terraces, they also brought their lives. Even as they swayed to the music, couples embraced and mothers fed their children. One of the most remarkable sights was the eagerness of non-whites to buy photographs of Afrikaner cricketers from hawkers. Yet, when someone down below raised the old South African flag, the band immediately struck up *Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika* and a dozen of the country's new flags filled the air.

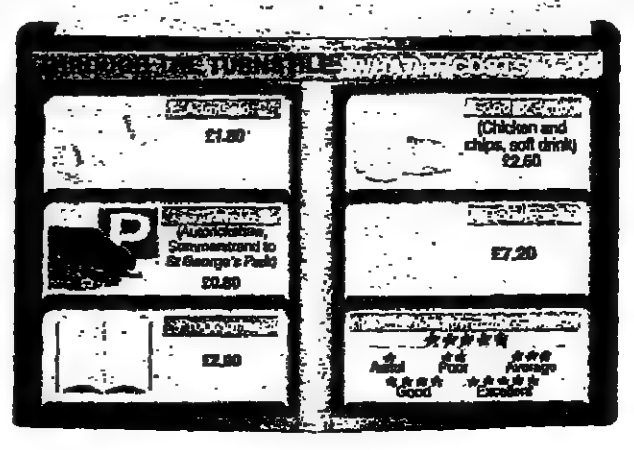
Throughout all this, the Barmy Army, not being instrumentalists, stood in front of the Castle bar on the opposite side of the ground, drinking their beer in stultified silence. Rarely had they had their thunder so comprehensively stolen.

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Jones, craft and guile unite to bring down another fortress



Kinnear: familiar refrain after victory to savour

Wimbledon are fighting their way out of relegation trouble. No. Perhaps I had better rephrase that. Wimbledon, the FA Carling Premiership arch-battlers, are still alive and kicking — no, that will not do either.

All right, let us try a truly controversial line: Wimbledon beat Arsenal 3-1 at Arsenal by playing better football. Wimbledon scored three goals, one with guile, one with craft, one with inspiration, and that was more than enough to dismay Arsenal.

The guile came from a chap called Jones — Vincent or Vinnie if you must. It was his free kick that created the chance to level the scores after Arsenal had scored a nice opening goal through Wright. Jones, fouled on the touchline, got up to take the free kick himself. He turned back to the ball just two steps into measuring out an elaborate run-up, whipped the ball into

the box and Earle headed in with the home side's defence on their heels. Adams, the leader of the Arsenal defence, would probably have read that one, but he dropped out half-an-hour before kick-off with a stomach upset.

Jones has had an exciting week. Sent off for an awful foul on Gullit on Boxing Day, he followed up with a tabloid diatribe (What was the deal? Lots of money and pay my fine?) against all foreigners. It was as much Corporal as Vinnie Jones. "They don't like it up 'em!" He now faces a dispute charge, you will be unsurprised to hear.

However, on Saturday, Jones's most significant contribution, apart from a wonderfully wolfish grin at the end, was a genuinely effective piece of midfield stopper. In the match programme, Platt had boasted about the immaculate timing of his late surges into the box. On Saturday, he hardly made one. He did not seem to fancy it.

Simon Barnes enjoys watching Wimbledon reach their best to beat Arsenal at Highbury

Jones is an effective player when he is not sliding about on his back with his studs in the air; but he has only one serious rival for the most hated footballer in England, and that is Eric Cantona.

Both sum up all that is most resented about their two clubs. Cantona's peacock swagger encapsulates Manchester United: rich, powerful, fed like Strasbourg goss on privilege; a spirit of unalloyed arrogance.

Jones's lupine aggression is pure Wimbledon. Not much of a player, but loves to win, to cock a snook, to put one over the arrogant rich, to hang the aristocrats from the lamp-post. With Cantona, Manchester United insist on aristocracy. With Jones, Wimbledon storm the Bastille every week.

Thus Wimbledon outplayed and overwhelmed Arsenal. Kimble, their left back, provided the best crosses of the match, and it was his free kick that put Wimbledon ahead, as it was headed in by the waspish finisher Holdsworth.

The third goal was a beauty. It started from a long clearance by Perry, deftly headed on by Holdsworth, and there was Earle, surging through from midfield with well-timed timing to pick the ball up and chip the keeper.

It was a goal-of-the-month contender and its perfection was enough to inspire Joe Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager, into a knee-jerk rendition of the club's national anthem. "Yeah, you all write this

We was lucky as 'ell, we didn't play football, we deserve to go down," he scoffed bitterly.

"I mean, 'odde plays a long ball and you lot all go, ooh, what a beautiful pass. If we do the same thing, oh, it's Wimbledon playing route one as usual... Yeah, I know we got enemies, people that 'ate the club and 'ate me."

Yes, Joe, but what if they did not? Could Wimbledon keep going without hate, without the constant need for defiance, for the summoning up of heart and spirit?

In some ways, Wimbledon are the most important club in the Premiership. They stand for democracy; more, they stand for hope.

It is not that hard to get into the top division. Even Reading almost managed it last year: squeaked out by Bolton Wanderers in the play-off — but Bolton are on course for immediate relegation.

Wimbledon, on much lower

gates, still survive. They have hung on, and sometimes done rather better than that, since 1986, and they picked up the FA Cup, too. They do so by a combination of spirit and sales. Kinnear briefly and cold-heartedly ran through various members of his squad who would fetch a handsome profit: Jones happens to be on the list himself, at his own request.

He would be something of a loss purely as a talisman, but the tradition of defiance can survive without him, as it has done before. "No one likes us, we don't care." Do not tell anyone, but Wimbledon can play a bit, too, when the mood is with them.

ARSENAL (4-2-2) D. Seaman — I. Doon, A. Linch, M. Keown, H. Winterburn — P. Alisson, D. Bell, J. Jensen (sub: P. Dochow, S. Brown), A. Clarke (sub: R. Parry, 64), — I. Wright, D. Bergkamp, W. Gallas, — A. Campbell, — A. Smith, — R. S. V. Jones, — O. Leach, — E. E. Brown (sub: M. Goodwin, 87), — D. Holdsworth, R. Hargrove (sub: M. Gable, 57). Referee: S. Lodge.

Striker's inconsistency highlighted as Rangers gain honour in defeat at Old Trafford

Flickering Cole ignites United title pursuit

Manchester United 2
Queens Park Rangers 1

By MICHAEL HENDERSON

MANCHESTER United did not play like champions on Saturday; nor did Queens Park Rangers betray the clumsiness of a team living in fear of relegation. So do appearances deceive? Only a duncel would deny that United can regain the FA Carling Premiership title and no wise man would say with certainty that Rangers will not go down.

United shaded it after a display that did not begin to compare to their victory over Newcastle United, which set Mancunian tongues wagging. Goals by Cole and Giggs proved enough to overcome opponents who gave a good account of themselves — or "ourselves", as Dichio, their goalkeeper, evidently preferred; yet another example of that Esperanto known as footballpeak.

If these teams are to meet at this level next season, Ray Wilkins has much to do and little time in which to do it. He must strengthen his side, but, as the manager of a poorly supported club, he does not have the money. Mind you, as he will have noted, Bolton Wanderers have been splashing out recently like merry matelots and a lot of joy it has brought them.

On another day, and at another ground, they might have plucked three valuable points. "We had them on the hop a bit," Wilkins said, and it is true that Rangers might have scored three times before Cole, with his one contribution of note, sent United in one-up with a headed goal on the stroke of half-time. Allen hit the bar with a right-foot shot

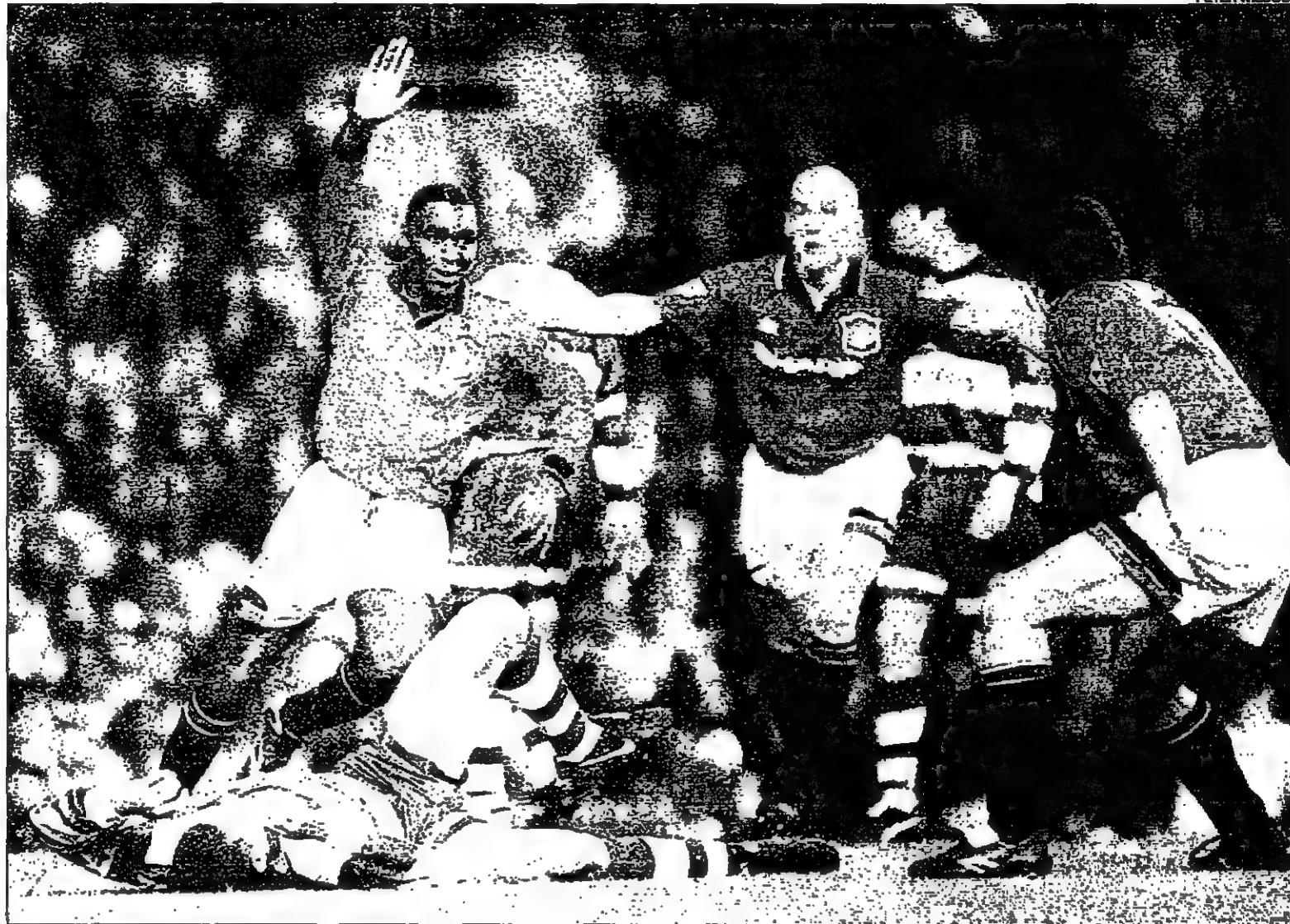
and shot narrowly wide with his left, and Sinclair "converted" with a careless hoof from a good position.

Towards the end, after they had retrieved an unusual goal when Dichio, a second-half substitute, charged down Schmeichel's attempted clearance and lobbed the ball back, Rangers kept United on the hop. This was, therefore, an honourable defeat, or a slightly fortunate victory, depending on the interpretation, not that Alex Ferguson bothered much. In a manager's view, there are never shades of meaning, only points won and lost.

Nobody, not even Ferguson, can be sure that Cole has turned the corner. He has scored three goals in successive games and, according to the United manager, conveys a "constant menace". Up to a point, maybe. When he has scored 100 league goals for United, at the rate that Alan Shearer has achieved for Blackburn Rovers, then he will have done his duty. Playing alongside Cantona, whose touch delights no matter how moderate the match, Cole (who cost twice as much as Shearer, in case anybody forgets) can look dozy.

Ferguson, understandably, offered United's Christmas schedule as a reason for their unconvincing performance. To play, and lose, at Liverpool and Leeds United, and then meet Newcastle is a demanding programme for a team that contains so many young players, however talented. Today, they visit Tottenham Hotspur. "Even computers don't love us," Ferguson said in jest.

William Prunier, the balding Frenchman from Bordeaux, made an encouraging debut at centre half, defending



Cole, left, celebrates his opening goal for Manchester United with Prunier, centre, who played a significant role in its creation, and Keane

sensibly and playing the significant part in Cole's goal with a header, from Giggs's corner, that forced Sommer to parry. Ferguson withheld judgment on his latest recruit, knowing that the game at White Hart Lane will provide a more reliable indication of his ability.

That United need to reinforce the centre of their defence is not in doubt. Bruce's career has run its course and

May is a bumping weight. Gary Neville, who continues to cover for the lame, is a versatile defender, as well as a gifted one, and may yet have the aptitude for the job. Otherwise, it is out with the big red cheque book.

Irwine, that underrated defender, played in both full back positions as Ferguson used all three substitutes, and helped to make the second goal, for Giggs, when he

ploughed regardless through the Rangers defence. He was assisted by some carpet-slippers tackling. If that is how Rangers intend to defend, then Wilkins will die a thousand deaths before May.

There was one compensation, however. Nigel Quashie, 17, a midfield player from south London, made his debut and, though he did not turn up any trees, he never looked out of place. Wilkins admitted

being "thrilled" by his performance. "We took him on a summer trip to Italy when he was only 16 and he was the best midfield player on show," he said. "I said then that he would play before Christmas and I was nearly right."

When Barker returns from injury, and if they can get something out of Hateley, Rangers will be better equipped to cope with their winter struggle. Wilkins is an

honest man and his team, though short of class, is full of good intentions. As he knows full well, good intentions are never enough.

MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-2): P. Schmeichel — D. Irwin, G. Neville, W. Prunier, P. Parker (sub: P. Parker, 55min), — D. Barker (sub: L. Shaper, 88), N. Butt, P. Keane, R. Giggs, — E. Cantona, A. Cole (sub: B. McGee, 55).
QUEENS PARK RANGERS (4-4-2): J. Sommer — D. Barclay (sub: R. Pardy, 70), D. Maddox, S. Yates, R. Bennett — A. Ince, I. Hargrove, R. Quashie, M. Brazier — B. Allen (sub: D. Dochow, 46), T. Sinclair (sub: R. Hargrove).

McGhee's optimism punctured by brave comeback

Wolverhampton W 2
Portsmouth 2

By IVO TENNANT

THREE matches into his stewardship of Wolverhampton Wanderers and Mark McGhee has yet to gain a victory. He is not deterred by that: Graham Taylor did not win much, either. His conversation is not of avoiding relegation but of reaching the Endleigh League first division play-offs, of building a team worthy of its stadium.

This is bombastic talk for a manager whose club was three places off the bottom of the table at the start of play. Wolverhampton supporters, however, expect nothing less than optimism. They have been told often enough that the infrastructure is in place for success of the kind that Blackburn Rovers have enjoyed, not least in the form of the undersoil heating that enabled this match to go ahead while other fixtures were called off.

The conditions were not much fun for anybody. Still, for a club primarily concerned with impending relegation, whatever the new manager might say, to be able to attract 25,000 on such a bleak day tells of immense potential.

In that they were 2-0 ahead at half-time, Wolverhampton should have won. Their goals, scored through a predatory follow-up by Bull and a strong header from Goodman, came from weak defending. Portsmouth, it seemed, had no stomach for a scrap and still less for the white-hot heat that necessitated the use of an orange ball. Until the second half, that was, when Portsmouth's first goal was scored by a forward whose career has caused disquietude. As a winger with Millwall, Carter attracted first Liverpool, and then Arsenal. Large sums of money changed hands in the summer, when he left Highbury for Portsmouth, his worth was no more than a free transfer.

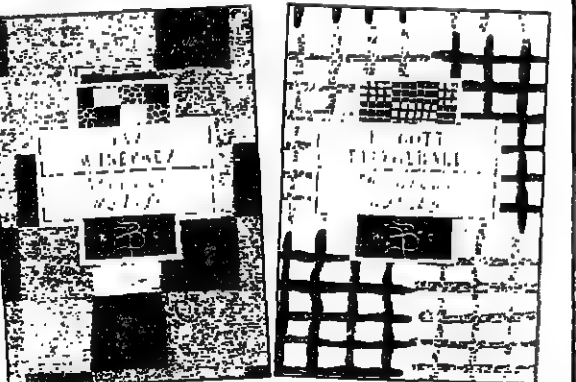
No impetus has come from this move. "I am always being taken off or blamed if things are not going well," Carter said before requesting a transfer on Friday. In this match he played in a wide midfield position. The talent that has been latent for too many of his 30 years came to the fore early in the second half when spotting Sowell too far off his line, he struck the kind of shot from some 25 yards that he can rarely have struck since he was at The Dell.

Terry Fenwick, his manager, did not substitute him now indeed. Portsmouth were soon commanding midfield, yet increased possession resulted in an equaliser by Burton after Butters's initial attempt was parried. Talk about play-off was muted after that.

McGhee is, by his own admission, an impatient man. It took him a year to make Leicester City play the way that he wanted and anything less than that with his new club would be unrealistic thinking. He would like to bring in new players, a thought he says that he is confident that those he possesses already can improve. He is a plausible manager with an enhanced sense of public relations. Substance of the pitch will be another matter.

WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS (4-4-2): M. Stowell — A. Thompson, M. Elliott, M. Morris — M. Morris, M. Morris (sub: M. Morris, 55min), — D. Barker, — A. Smith, — R. S. V. Jones, — O. Leach, — E. E. Brown (sub: M. Goodwin, 87), — D. Holdsworth, R. Hargrove (sub: M. Gable, 57). Referee: S. Lodge.

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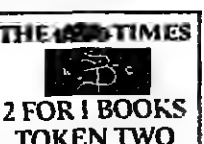
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Rebel clubs withdraw resignations

By DAVID MADDON

THE first division clubs that had threatened to break away from the Football League and effectively end its 108-year existence, withdrew their letters of resignation last night. After a weekend of tense negotiations, their main demands have been met, the most significant of which will be an attempt by the Football League Management Committee to renegotiate its £125 million contract with Sky Television.

The first division clubs had walked out of a meeting of all the 22 clubs on Friday. Twenty of the top clubs had placed letters of resignation in trust, threatening to use them before the deadline, yesterday, for clubs wishing to leave the league.

Their main objection had been to the lack of consultation over the five-year television deal. Many of the more powerful clubs had felt that there was more money to be earned from Sky by accepting an offer to negotiate jointly with the FA Premier League.

The Premier League is hoping for upwards of £800 million when it begins negotiations with Sky Television and the first division clubs believe that the Football League could get as much as £200 million as its share of the lucrative cake. At present, the deal negotiated with Sky gives first division clubs, on average, £800,000 a year each.

Norwich supporters slow to come to terms with life out of fast lane

David Miller sees a chairman come under further fire after his club's 3-3 draw with Reading



DURING a recent industrial dispute, a striker who had been obliged to make serious economies asserted that "everyone has a right to have a car". Some Norwich City supporters seem to think that they have a right to an FA Carling Premiership club playing in European competition never mind the necessary financial equation for that status.

After Norwich had squandered a 3-1 lead at home to Reading on Saturday, some of the more aggressive of Norwich's disenchanted followers, predominantly under 25, gathered outside the main entrance, yet again chanting abuse at Robert Chase, the chairman, for the departure of players and managers to more prosperous clubs.

"Have you sold your wife and kids?" they sang. Observing their demeanour, I was tempted to wonder whether some of them, offered the millions that Norwich received for Chris Sutton and Rudi Voller, might have jumped at such an offer for their nearest and dearest.

The Norwich financial equation is finely-balanced. The progress of the club, against whose present but relative misfortune the spectators' protest, has been remarkable, given their provincial city status.

It is to be expected, nonetheless, that the club is unable to pay the hundreds of thousands a year demanded by the likes of Sutton and Voller, and that it cannot meet the transfer

deals that Mike Walker and Martin O'Neill considered necessary to their successful management.

During Norwich's entire existence, the club has had an investment of capital of less than £150,000. All their recent success — third and fourth in the senior division, European competition and two FA Cup semi-finals — has been achieved on a working budget.

Those jeering Chase and the board should pause to consider that Norwich have gate receipts of £2.6 million against a wage bill for players and coaching staff of £3.4 million. The difference is met by peripheral commercial enterprise. Those not old enough to know the difference imag-



Chase: hard decisions

ine that Norwich can somehow stand shoulder to shoulder in the marketplace with Manchester United or Liverpool.

There are, of course, legitimate debates on detail. For example, that Chase should have seen the risk of losing Walker and acted earlier to try to keep him. Yet Walker's nature was destined to yield to a high bidder. You had only to see him dressed like a dance-band leader when he arrived at Goodison Park.

Maybe Chase should have appointed a replacement with a better pedigree than the likeable John Deehan last year. Maybe O'Neill was not given enough support from the boardroom to bolster a promotion bid this season. There was a boardroom disagreement.

Yet, Norwich are sensibly running a tight ship. Chase has taken hard decisions now, rather than when the club might have become overstretched. He offered to quit within a month if any individual or consortium could produce a viable package, bank-guaranteed. None was forthcoming.

"We're in a Catch-22 situation," he said on Saturday. "We've whetted the appetite of football followers in Norfolk.

On New Year's Day last year, we were fifth in the Premiership, with the best defensive record, but then went to pieces. We're only four points off the second team in the promotion race. It only needs two or three wins to bring us back in line."

The match turned partially on an injury to Johnson, their striker, who was carried off after 62 minutes. At this point, Jimmy Quinn, Reading's joint player-manager, and Dylan Kerr replaced Lambert and McPherson.

Within ten minutes, Nogan ran through to shoot in off a post and make the score 3-2. Eight minutes from time, Newman, substitute for the unfit and almost immobile Molby, on loan from Liverpool, grazed a Reading post.

Within moments, Kerr stunned Gunn, a six-man Norwich wall and the home crowd with a superb free kick from 22 yards that flew into the top right-hand corner.

Lambert had opened the score early on. Johnson had headed the equaliser after 20 minutes and Ward and Fleck had put Norwich 3-1 ahead early in the second half. It was, indeed, a victory wasted.

NORWICH CITY (4-4-2): B. Gunn — R. Ushakov, J. Newman, S. Prior, M. Bowen — N. Adams, J. Molby (sub: R. Newman, 71min), R. Fleck, K. O'Neill — A. Ward, A. Johnson (sub: J. Goff, 62).
READING (4-4-2): N. Hargrove — K. Brown, A. Williams, K. McPherson (sub: J. Quinn, 62), D. Wodolay — J. Lambert (sub: D. Kerr, 82), M. Collins, P. Falkner, P. Hargrove — T. Morley, L. Nogan. Referee: W. Burns.

McManaman helps Liverpool to escape as Hoddle's men do half the job

Chelsea fail to press home advantage

Chelsea 2
Liverpool 2

By ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

TERRY VENABLES, the national team coach, was at Stamford Bridge on Saturday to see two teams trying to play with a shape similar to that which he is impressing on England. He was one of 31,137 people who saw that the culture is half developed in England. Both teams adopted variations on 3-5-2; in some extent, they mastered the techniques required, but the passion and pace bred into English players pulled them out of shape, offered far more chances than the four goals reflect, and showed that British football is still some way from catching up with much of the rest of the Continent.

"We know what we are doing," Glenn Hoddle, the Chelsea manager, said. "We need to get the ball down and to pass it. Our players certainly have learnt that off the back of our European experience; but, most important, we still have to try to instil patience into the supporters. They need to be tuned in."

The whole conundrum in a

Results and tables 24
Today's action 25

notshell from a man whose own playing days were a contest of his worldly elegance with the boot of English League fare. It was hard, on Saturday, to blame the spectators. Those who had paid £15 to sit in the uncovered Shed End were doused by freezing rain. Doused, but not downhearted, because John Spencer popped up twice from midfield to score fine goals. Indeed, near the end, he struck a post, and was that close to being the first Chelsea player in six years to equal Kerry Dixon's feat of scoring a hat-trick.

Yet, because Chelsea did not quite believe that they could master the best passing side in England, because they became woefully negative and invited Liverpool to attack them in the second half, two even finer goals from Steve McManaman neutralised the game and kept Liverpool, just, in the championship race. So much as Chelsea is half measure. The boardroom quarrel is half patched up, the ground half built and more than half of the squad is on the treatment table. Above all, the revolution that Hoddle is trying to bring to the team is still only half ingested.

Early on, it looked as if they



James, the Liverpool goalkeeper, gets to grips with Spencer as the Chelsea forward attempts an overhead kick. Photograph: Marc Aspland

could beat their visitors. Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, said: "We defended quite poorly. If you play three at the back, they have to be positive. Our three made problems for themselves and, by the end, I was pleased with the character the team showed in coming back."

Spencer exposed that negligent defending after only nine minutes. Gullit had drawn Harkness to him with a run down the right; Petrescu intelligently cut inside with the ball and produced an angled pass. Spencer, though barely 5ft 7in, did all that a little fellow has to

do against Wright, a 6ft 3in defender. He delayed his run, then he cut across his man and rose 18 inches off the ground to volley the ball past James.

Venables would have noted the speed of the counter-attack with delight but he knows that none of the three men involved is English. McManaman certainly is. If only Venables can be persuaded to liberate him, the way Liverpool do, to run at defenders from a central position instead of being pinned to the left flank. He is far more of a threat when seemingly hemmed in by opponents. He

has the cheek of the devil, as one dunnery to bemuse Gullit demonstrated, and he can be quite deadly in his finish.

McManaman equalised after 35 minutes. Barnes persuaded McAteer to advance down the right and, though his cross appeared to strike the arm of Fowler, play was allowed to proceed and McManaman drove the ball in from the edge of the penalty box.

Towards half-time, Chelsea's ambition swelled anew. They could have had two more goals but for the lack of a touch from Furlong and Spen-

cer. The Scot atoned on the stroke of half-time by wriggling free of Harkness to squeeze home his second goal.

The Liverpool response was ugly. The three central defenders lost discipline, concentration and temper. Harkness was booked for a tackle on Gullit. Wright for a late challenge on Furlong and Scales for an even later one on Wise. Wise, himself, was preoccupied trying to quell the surges of McManaman. He lost him a second time in the 78th minute when, after nine Liverpool passes, Collymore unselfishly laid the ball back and

McManaman's second goal was delivered, crisp and clean, from 20 yards. Chelsea resumed an attacking formation and Wise should have scored, but dived too late to Gullit's crossbar. Then Gullit, from ten yards, mis-hit the ball straight to James. Had Chelsea maintained the attacking momentum for most of the match, they would have won.

Chelsea (3-5-2): D. James — M. Duberry, D. Lee, S. Clarke — D. Petrescu, E. Newton, D. Wise, A. Dow — R. Gullit, J. Spencer — R. Furlong (capt), G. Harkness, B. Barnes.

Liverpool (3-4-3): D. James — M. Wright, J. Barnes, S. Harkness — J. McManaman, J. Barnes, M. Thomas, R. Jones — S. McManaman — R. Foulke, S. Collymore. Referee: R. Elgar.

Shearer marks century with sharp dismissal of Tottenham

Blackburn Rovers 2
Tottenham Hotspur 1

By PETER BALL

A STRAW poll, in a Sunday newspaper, of FA Carling Premiership managers on the eventual champions unsurprisingly produced overwhelming support for Newcastle United, although most thought that Manchester United and Liverpool would have a say in things. Nobody mentioned Blackburn Rovers, the champions, or Tottenham Hotspur, who could have risen to second place a week ago.

On Saturday, in bitter conditions, the football rarely flowed in the meeting between the two at Ewood Park, but, after a turgid first half-hour, two weakened teams showed that they are not far away. Manchester United apart, nobody has had as much of the game at Ewood this season as Tottenham manager, but still Rovers hung on to inflict the London club's first away defeat and maintain their imposing home record, now nine wins out of 11 Premiership games. Championship form, but their away record tells a different story.

Realistically, the championship's out of our reach, but we are going all out for a place in Europe, and we're all confident we will do it," Alan Shearer, the captain for the day, said after scoring his hundredth Premiership goal, the strike that separated the teams.

Tottenham, too, are not quite championship material, but their European cause is more promising. Without their first-choice midfield, as Gerry Francis, the manager, lamented, they had to make do and mend, and did so with some style.

Although Batty won the sponsor's man-of-the-match award, Sol Campbell and Nethercott, two centre halves, took over midfield in the second half and Sheringham's intelligence and the surging runs of Armstrong kept Blackburn on tenterhooks. Yet Tottenham managed only one goal. Sheringham tucking away Armstrong's perfect cross with aplomb.

Francis bemoaned the "travesty" of his team's failure to get at least one point. "We had Stuart Nethercott's sweet header hit Batty on the line, Teddy Sheringham's sweet volley from three yards hit the

'keeper and go over, and a lovely sweet trip on Chris Armstrong which the referee somehow missed," he said sarcastically. "It was the clearest penalty I've seen all season, and the referee was perfectly placed."

Francis had a point, Kenna appearing to catch Armstrong as the forward spun away from him, but perhaps Peter Jones would have been more sympathetic if Armstrong had not earned 5.1 for artistic impression with a swallow-dive in the first minute. In that area, as in most, Shearer provides an object lesson for aspiring strikers. On Saturday, one fall, that brought a harsh looking for Campbell, had Calderwood protesting vehemently.

"Apart from being a great finisher, he's streetwise," Calderwood said, but in the end, after Marker had given



Marker: first goal for club

Blackburn the lead with his first goal for the club, it was Shearer's finishing ability that sent Tottenham home without a point.

There appeared to be nothing on as Shearer received the ball 20 yards out with his back to goal and Mabbutt at his shoulder. For a striker of his calibre, though, that was an opportunity rather than a restriction.

"I knew he was right on me and I had half a chance to turn, and I'd had a look at the 'keeper and knew he was off his line," Shearer explained matter-of-factly. Mabbutt was moored aside and the shot, hit on the turn, went over the stranded Walker.

BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-4-2): T. Flowers — H. Bagg, M. Marker, C. Coleman, J. Irvine — S. Rieley, D. Batty, L. Bohren, M. Holmes — A. Shearer, M. Newman (capt), P. Vennart, 78th, sub: W. McKinlay, 87.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-4-2): J. Walker — D. Austin, G. Calderwood, G. Mabbutt, J. Edithorpe — J. Dummett, S. Campbell, S. Nethercott, R. Hesketh — C. Armstrong, E. Shearer. Referee: P. Jones.

Leeds surrender to the menace of Ferguson

Everton 2
Leeds United 0

By OLIVER HOUL

THE piped band that welcomed Duncan Ferguson back from Barlinnie Prison for a reserve team game last month was downgraded to a thin blue line of sponsors' cheerleaders frozen by the cold. Yet the man that Joe Royle, his manager, calls "the big fella", was cheered to the rafters when he strode out for his return to the Everton first team starting line-up at Goodison Park on Saturday, and did enough damage to be singled out by Howard Wilkinson, Royle's opposite number.

It was not that Ferguson, recovered from a bout of flu that had kept him away from Goodison Park as effectively as his enforced sojourn in Glasgow, was overly aggres-

sive. He had one rather alarming eyeball-to-eyeball confrontation with Wetherall, but, whether it was to protect them from the cold or make a point of pacifism, all afternoon he pulled his sleeves down over his fists and kept them hidden.

For all his bad publicity, nobody, supporters, has forgotten that Ferguson is a fine footballer. He scored a towering header against Leeds United at Goodison last season, and on Saturday, drafted into the team because of a late injury to Linpar, he went through his full repertoire of extravagant turns and salmon leaps to disrupt them again.

He did not score, but Wilkinson admitted that his team could not cope with his presence and the amount of loose balls that resulted from his aerial duelling.

Ferguson's main accomplices were Ebbrell, who flung himself at attempted clear-

ances like a bodyguard in the line of fire and harried McAllister so enthusiastically that he made him look very ordinary, and Parkinson, who anchored midfield until Watson was sent off for a second poorly-timed tackle after 20 minutes and then converted to right back with aplomb.

Kanchelskis deserves a mention, too, for his fine goal just after half-time, a jink past two rather half-hearted tackles and a fine left-foot, curling shot that went in off Beene's right-hand post. Even more than Ferguson and the rest, though, if you wanted to point the finger at someone for crimes against Leeds, it should be pointed at... well, Leeds.

Wetherall started it all off when he lobbed over his own goalkeeper and into the corner of the net in the sixth minute after a clever chipped pass from Ebbrell put him under pressure. The sending-off of Watson should have been the visitors' reprieve, but Everton continued to dominate.

Speed looked like a little boy lost in his left-of-centre midfield role, and Broolin, for all his nice touches and perceptive passes, dropped so deep that he duplicated the role of McAllister. In the absence of Yeboah, Deane and Masinga were woefully bad in attack. It was hard to believe this was the team that beat Manchester United 3-1 last week, easy to see how they could have lost 6-2 to Sheffield Wednesday.

These teams now lie either side of the halfway point in the Premiership, Leeds just in the top half. Leeds may be in for difficult times, but Everton, with Ferguson off the leash, are on a roll.

EVERTON (3-1-3-3): M. Southall — D. Linpar, D. Watson, C. Egan — J. Parkinson — G. Egan, J. Egan, C. Egan — D. Ferguson (capt), A. Farnhill, 78th, P. Farnhill, 87.

LEEDS UNITED (4-2-1-2): M. Beattie — G. Kelly, D. Wetherall, R. Johnson, A. Doran (capt), N. Worrall, 45 — M. Ford, G. McAllister, G. Speed, T. Broolin — S. Deane, P. Mashinga (capt), R. Waddell, 87th.

Referee: J. Winter.

Last laugh is on sad Bolton again

Alyson Rudd sees Coventry's 2-1 victory leave Wanderers with that sinking feeling

YOU cannot meddle too much with a traditional pantomime. If an ugly sister marries the prince, the kids in the front seats will start crying. The joy is in the anticipation of a known outcome. Bolton Wanderers clearly did not want to ruin the young Coventry City supporters' Christmas holidays. They are becoming so adept at conceding important, last-minute goals, that it is practically a tradition.

"Keep hold of your stubs," the comper on the pitch told the crowd. He was not, it transpired, giving Roy McFarland and Colin Todd, the Bolton management team, advice about the Bolton defender, but, with blizzards forecast, reminding everyone about refunds if the game had to be abandoned. No such luck for Bolton.

The home side were, by turns, exquisite and grossly sloppy. Caric. Bolton's Serb import, played the Good Fairy — gloriously magical but not that vital to the plot in the end. He clipped the woodwork after a quarter of an hour and, a minute later, provided the cross for McGinlay's header. Bolton almost hung on until the interval, but the breeze assisted Pickering's cross and picked out Salako, who set up Whelan for the equaliser seconds before half-time.

The second period was played almost entirely for laughs. The Bolton defenders kept prodding the ball under the Coventry players' noses and the visitors kept fluffing their attacks. Green, the Bolton full back, stoically refused to kick the ball out of play. On occasion, this resulted in a neat build-up from defence. On many more occa-

sions, it opened the way to goal for Coventry, but Bolton clung on.

Ninety minutes had passed — and then Fairclough passed back to Branagan. The Bolton goalkeeper thought about clearing the ball first time and then decided against it, having felt a muscle twinge. The delay allowed Whelan to steal the ball off him. The twist in the tale was that Branagan brought Whelan to the ground and the inevitable took a few seconds longer with Salako winning the game from the penalty spot.

It was the sixth time this season that Bolton had allowed points to slip through the net during the last five minutes of a match. McFarland did not even try to play the bad-luck card. "The ball should be in the stands or belted up field," he said, referring to the end of each half. Todd called Bolton's approach "suicide".

This, then, will most likely be the game in years to come that grandfathers will describe to their grandchildren as the one that secured Bolton's return to the lower orders. Around 200 supporters defied the chill to line up outside the ground after the game and demand McFarland's resignation.

As the Coventry players filed past them to board their coach, these supporters chanted: "You're going down with the Wanderers."

BOLTON WANDERERS (4-2-1-2): K. Branagan — S. Green, C. Fairclough, G. Taggart, J. Phillips — A. Todd — R. Snodgrass, S. Salako — S. Caruso — J. McGinlay, M. Salako.

COVENTRY CITY (4-2-2): S. Ogrizovic — A. Pickering, D. Burt, R. Shaw, M. Hall — P. Voller, W. Whelan, P. Williams, J. Salako — N. Whelan, D. Dublin.

Referee: A. Wall.

Pearce ready with drive on the left for England

Nottingham Forest 1
Middlesbrough 0

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

NO ONE can have taken pleasure from the horrendous ankle injury sustained by Graeme Le Saux, the Blackburn Rovers defender, against Middlesbrough two weeks ago. It could have happened to anybody, at any time, but it is now likely that he will miss England's European championship campaign — a grave loss for Terry Venables, the national team coach.

For Stuart Pearce, though, a colleague's misfortune will almost certainly lead to his resurrection as a full back of international repute. Venables had as good as ignored him in his first eight games in charge, and it is only in the past seven matches, when he has appeared five times, that he has felt that he still has a part to play.

At the City Ground on Saturday, Pearce, 33, again showed that he has the credentials to take on and scare the likes of Holland, Switzerland and Scotland — for starters. He has long lost his self-styled "Psycho" image, but his tackling and shacking of invaders remain raw and resolute.

Juninho bore testimony, many times, as Middlesbrough battled gamely on an Antarctic afternoon. He may look no more than a wee wail from the streets of São Paulo, but he hustles and bustles and always returns for more. Pearce had to be at his best to cope with the begoggled Brazilian. That he did, and won hands down, speaks volumes for his refusal to accept the passage of time.

There was little else to enthuse about on a day that had the brass monkeys scurrying for cover. Nottingham Forest's underdog heating may have cheated the big freeze, but their players pro-

vided scant evidence that they will seriously worry Bayern Munich come the Uefa Cup quarter-finals in March.

"The best part of the day was the result," Frank Clark, the Forest manager, conceded. "We started well, with a good tempo, went in front but then lost the threads. I don't really know what to say unless anyone can prompt me with an intelligent question." Inspiration, off the pitch as well, was sorely lacking, from main man and inquisitors alike.

Forest forged ahead, in the ninth minute, when Fleming clumsily felled Stone. Pearce, typically, thundered the penalty past Walsh. "We haven't been playing particularly well as a team and are not creating many chances," he said, "1995 has been pretty good, but we haven't won anything yet."

Middlesbrough had many players missing and yet their

replacements scrambled and scrapped to good effect. Had Hendrie's low drive, in the 41st minute, gone in instead of thudding against Crossley's right-hand post, Forest would have had to defend even more desperately than they did in the closing stages.

"It was about the last 14 players I had to pick from," Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough player-manager, said. "I thought we should have got something out of the game."

Pearce did, with a buccaneering display of old. Le Saux's loss should be his gain; Venables, beleaguered on every front, need not be so downhearted after all.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (4-4-2): M. Pearce — D. Lyle, C. Cooper, S. Christie, S. Pearce — S. Stone, S. Gerrard, G. Bartlett, I. Wain — J. Lee (capt), B. Roy, 78th, R. Campbell.

MIDDLESBROUGH (4-4-1-1): G. Walsh — N. Cox, R. Pearson, S. Vickers, C. Liddle — C. Beckford, P. Pollack, A. Moore, C. Fleming — Juninho — J. Hendrie.

Referee: G. Wilson.

DISCOVERY DATA: FASTEST ROADCAR: McLAREN F1: 238mph

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Table with 2 columns: Team, Score. Rows include Arsenal, Chelsea, Liverpool, Tottenham, etc.

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP



Table with 2 columns: Team, Score. Rows include Arsenal, Chelsea, Liverpool, Tottenham, etc.



Earle scored two against Arsenal

GOALSCORERS

Table with 2 columns: Player, Goals. Rows include A. Shearer, D. Hughton, etc.

BOOKINGS AND DISMISSALS

Table with 2 columns: Player, Points. Rows include A. Shearer, D. Hughton, etc.

WEATHER NEWS

ALTHOUGH ten matches in the Endsleigh Insurance League have been postponed because of frozen pitches, the outlook for the Premiership is more encouraging.

Endsleigh Insurance League

FIRST DIVISION

Table with 2 columns: Team, Score. Rows include Huddersfield, Reading, etc.

SECOND DIVISION

Table with 2 columns: Team, Score. Rows include Shrewsbury, etc.

THIRD DIVISION

Table with 2 columns: Team, Score. Rows include Exeter, etc.

CONFERENCE

Table with 2 columns: Team, Score. Rows include Dag and Red, etc.

BELL'S LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

PREMIER DIVISION

Table with 2 columns: Team, Score. Rows include Rangers, etc.

FIRST DIVISION

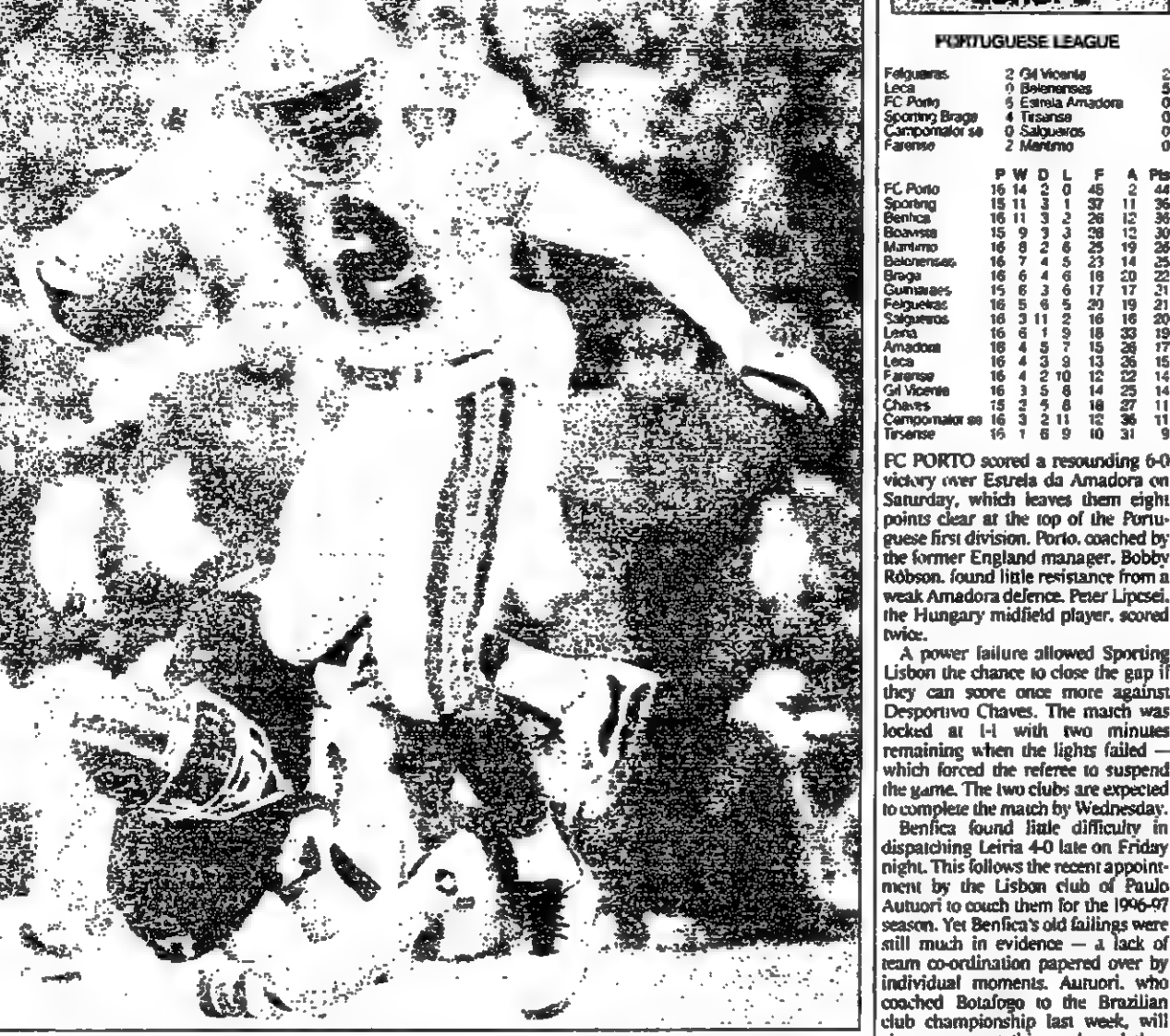
Table with 2 columns: Team, Score. Rows include Dundee, etc.

SECOND DIVISION

Table with 2 columns: Team, Score. Rows include Queens Park, etc.

THIRD DIVISION

Table with 2 columns: Team, Score. Rows include Beazer Homes, etc.



Terry Kirby, centre, of the Miami Dolphins, pulls away as Ken Irvin, of Buffalo, is floored during the Dolphins' 37-22 defeat in the NFL play-offs. Report, page 20

FOR THE RECORD

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NFL) Wild-card round: Buffalo 37 Miami 28.

ATHLETICS

CROSS COUNTRY: DURNHAM BURN international meeting. Men: Under 15, 15.4m.

GUINNESS

GUINNESS: Limerick open meeting. Men: 100m, 1.7.10.

ROAD RUNNING

ROAD RUNNING: Coventry 5 miles. Men: 15.4m.

BADMINTON

PORTSMOUTH: Friends' Premier. Men: 15.4m.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA) Friday: Washington 117 Atlanta 96.

CRICKET

SHEFFIELD SHIELD: 1st day. Yorkshire 100.

CYCLING

CYCLE-CROSS: Macclesfield Supersport. Men: 15.4m.

BOWLS

PORT TALBOT: C&S Welsh Indoor Bowls. Men: 15.4m.

BOXING

LAMPKUN, Thailand: International Boxing. Men: 15.4m.

CRICKET

SHEFFIELD SHIELD: 2nd day. Yorkshire 100.

CYCLING

CYCLE-CROSS: Macclesfield Supersport. Men: 15.4m.

BOWLS

PORT TALBOT: C&S Welsh Indoor Bowls. Men: 15.4m.

ICE HOCKEY

ICE HOCKEY: 1st day. Toronto 10.

CRICKET

SHEFFIELD SHIELD: 3rd day. Yorkshire 100.

CYCLING

CYCLE-CROSS: Macclesfield Supersport. Men: 15.4m.

BOWLS

PORT TALBOT: C&S Welsh Indoor Bowls. Men: 15.4m.

WRESTLING

WRESTLING: World junior championship. Men: 15.4m.

CRICKET

SHEFFIELD SHIELD: 4th day. Yorkshire 100.

CYCLING

CYCLE-CROSS: Macclesfield Supersport. Men: 15.4m.

BOWLS

PORT TALBOT: C&S Welsh Indoor Bowls. Men: 15.4m.

WRESTLING

WRESTLING: World junior championship. Men: 15.4m.

CRICKET

SHEFFIELD SHIELD: 5th day. Yorkshire 100.

CYCLING

CYCLE-CROSS: Macclesfield Supersport. Men: 15.4m.

BOWLS

PORT TALBOT: C&S Welsh Indoor Bowls. Men: 15.4m.

WRESTLING

WRESTLING: World junior championship. Men: 15.4m.

CRICKET

SHEFFIELD SHIELD: 6th day. Yorkshire 100.

CYCLING

CYCLE-CROSS: Macclesfield Supersport. Men: 15.4m.

BOWLS

PORT TALBOT: C&S Welsh Indoor Bowls. Men: 15.4m.

WRESTLING

WRESTLING: World junior championship. Men: 15.4m.

CRICKET

SHEFFIELD SHIELD: 7th day. Yorkshire 100.

CYCLING

CYCLE-CROSS: Macclesfield Supersport. Men: 15.4m.

BOWLS

PORT TALBOT: C&S Welsh Indoor Bowls. Men: 15.4m.

WRESTLING

WRESTLING: World junior championship. Men: 15.4m.

CRICKET

SHEFFIELD SHIELD: 8th day. Yorkshire 100.

CYCLING

CYCLE-CROSS: Macclesfield Supersport. Men: 15.4m.

BOWLS

PORT TALBOT: C&S Welsh Indoor Bowls. Men: 15.4m.

Welshmen win in Dublin to set up Heineken Cup final with Toulouse on Sunday

Cardiff can cash in on European adventure

Leinster 14
Cardiff 23

FROM DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT
IN DUBLIN

CARDIFF can become the catalyst for change in Welsh rugby, not only by their playing achievement in reaching the final of the inaugural Heineken Cup but also through the ancillary benefits.

Should they beat Toulouse at the Arms Park next Sunday — the final for which the organisers so desperately hoped — it will only confirm their domestic primacy.

As winners of the Heineken League, their domestic club competition, last season, they received £25,000. Now, Gareth Davies, their chief executive, talks of six-figure sums accruing from their venture into Europe and valuable associations established with blue-chip companies as a result of the club's enhanced profile.

"Clubs offering European rugby in their fixture list have extra selling power," Davies said. However, he stresses the need for clarification on club earnings from the competition. This season, the split of television and sponsorship income has yet to be determined; next season, the entry of English and Scottish sides will increase the hands dipping into the pot.

When Davies discusses contracts with his first-team players this week, he will hold a powerful hand, in terms of the finances coming into the club and the quality of games on offer. Before the final next weekend, he will meet the representatives of Toulouse, Toulon and Castres, and a clutch of envious English ad-

ministrators, to lay down the requirements of what are fast becoming the most influential clubs in Europe.

The vista opening up, of course, contains an implicit threat to the governing bodies of the respective countries — that their best clubs will become sufficiently independent to go their own way — but, what Cardiff are achieving, others assuredly will seek to emulate.

Moreover, the competition has received instant credibility with a Franco-Welsh final. An all-Welsh final would have been a heavy blow in marketing terms, while a Leinster success would have been a shade peripheral for television audiences in Great Britain.

The Welsh champions reached the final with a display of rugby adapted to suit the miserable conditions at Lansdowne Road on Saturday, where freezing rain drove down the pitch and numbed hands did well to cling to the ball. In such circumstances, the 8,000 or so hardy souls who constituted the crowd were well rewarded with a full-blooded and skilful contest that left Leinster honourably beaten.

"Provincial rugby in Ireland had become a bit stagnant and there was some question as to whether the provinces could compete with clubs like Cardiff," Jim Glennon, the Leinster manager, said. "I think that has now been answered."

Indeed, Leinster's magnificent pack outscrummed Cardiff, but, importantly, lacked lineout presence. They also lacked the ability to play effectively with the wind in the second half, after trailing by only six points at the interval.

Cardiff scored two textbook tries in the first half and then played cannily into the wind



Rolland, the Leinster scrum half, escapes the attentions of the Cardiff defence at Lansdowne Road

with a mixture of chip kicks and grubbers. They won the lineouts 19-8 and their half backs made sure that possession was not wasted.

Their tries both came from set-piece play and Hall was pivotal to each. The former Wales captain, behind a lineout, left Taylor to draw the defence with a dummy run before sending Emyr Lewis cantering into space. Taylor supported for the try, and it was his pick-up at a scrum that gave Hall the second try as Pim grasped at thin air.

Pim gained some recom-

pense when he finished off a series of surging attacks, but the most potent Leinster threat came from Costello and McQuilkin, who left yesterday for Atlanta with the Ireland party and may reasonably hope for a first cap against the United States this weekend. Both men have the ability to cross the advantage line and offer a target for their colleagues, but Leinster could find no foothold in the Cardiff half.

That Cardiff scored the only points of the second half through Moore's close-range

dropped goal was a significant achievement, though they were grateful that McGowan could not judge the wind sufficiently well to land two penalty attempts. It was reward, too, for Terry Holmes, the club's new coach.

The former international scrum half is hardly three weeks into his new role since the return of Alex Evans to Australia. Holmes and Cardiff are trying each other out on a month-by-month basis this season, and, if both enjoy the relationship, it will be extended. So far, Holmes could

argue, it has been plain sailing.

SCORERS: Leinster: Try: Pim. Penalty goals: McGowan (3). Cardiff: Try: Taylor. Half conversions: Davies (2). Penalty goals: Davies (2). Dropped goals: Davies, Moore.

LEINSTER: C. Clarke (Tribune College); P. Gavin (Old Belvedere); V. Cunningham (St Mary's College); R. McQuilkin (Beacon Rovers); C. O'Brien (London Irish); McGowan (Blackrock College); A. Rolland (Blackrock College); H. Taylor (Old Wesley); S. Byrne (Blackrock College); P. Wallace (Blackrock College); C. Pim (Old Wesley); S. Jameson (St Mary's College); N. French (Old Belvedere); S. Roney (Lansdowne); V. Costello (St Mary's College); Clarke replaced by R. Hennessey (Lansdowne). CARDIFF: M. Reyer; S. Ford; M. Hall; M. Ring; S. Hill; A. Davies; A. Moore; A. Lewis; J. Humphreys; L. Hudson; E. Lewis; J. Wakeford; D. Jones; O. Williams; H. Taylor. Referee: S. Campbell (England).

Swansea learn timely lesson despite defeat

Toulouse 30
Swansea 3

FROM GERALD DAVIES
IN TOULOUSE

THE benefits of the Heineken Cup and the opportunities that the tournament will afford, more so in seasons to come than even in this inaugural year, were evident at the Stade des Sept-Deniers in Toulouse on Saturday. The competition will expose clubs and players to a higher level of competition; more important, it will also allow them to cross frontiers, not only of geography, but of ideas.

Toulouse, in beating Swansea by three goals and three penalty goals to a penalty goal, demonstrated — in fits and starts — that swiftness of thought and speed of pass to a choice of supporting players remain essential for success against more static opponents. Swansea, more inclined to look for support and control close to the forwards, were frequently out-manoeuvred by a team that gathered pace by shifting the ball quickly away from where bodies were likely to be thickest. Swansea, confronted by opponents who were more powerful, were left back-peddling for much of the time, although many of their young players will have learnt from the experience.

Mike Ruddock, the Swansea coach, had said beforehand that the back row of the scrum might be the critical area — and so, to an extent, it proved. Manent, Dispagne and Lacroix were always inspiring the movements forward and, once Reynolds left the field with a rib cartilage injury, after 28 minutes, they grew more so. When Belot emerged from an irresistible moving maul on the halfway line, Manent was at his shoulder to score the try, in the 54th minute, that effectively secured Toulouse's place in the final against Cardiff on Sunday.

Yet the match had long started to drift away from Swansea, who had also lost Andy Moore with a knee ligament injury. Toulouse took the lead with two penalty goals by Deylaud to Williams' one and showed the more enterprising use of possession.

They extended their lead from a penalty try when Swansea transgressed while trying to prevent a pushover, the movement leading to it being thrilling in conception and full of Gallic flair. That attack covered the length of the pitch and almost all the width, every player, it seemed, being involved: they deserved the score.

Toulouse committed errors in midfield, but few from the inter-passing of their forwards. They had their replacements, too. Lacroix, Berty and Caliano had to leave the field after Manent's try, but it made little difference. Ougier, who left the field late in the game, was a constant threat.

Swansea, nonetheless, enjoyed their most productive period. Boobyer broke through the defence, as did Weatherley. Aled Williams was also held up on the line. It was to no avail: this was too much like desperate catch-up rugby.

Deylaud kicked another penalty goal. Castaignede crossed for a score but was recalled and Artiguste, his partner in the centre, ensured that the team ended on a high note with a beautifully carved run. Deylaud converted all the tries.

SCORERS: Toulouse: Try: Manent. Penalty try. Conversions: Deylaud (3). Penalty goals: Deylaud (3). Swansea: Penalty goal: Williams.

TOULOUSE: S. Ougier; E. N'Namack; E. Anguissola; V. Castaignede; D. Berty; Deylaud; V. Caliano; C. Caliano; P. Scola; C. Fontaine; H. Manent; H. Moore; F. Belot; D. Lacroix; S. Dispagne; Lacroix replaced by R. Castel (56min); Berty replaced by V. Mula (62); Caliano replaced by P. Lasserre (68). SWANSEA: R. Boobyer; A. Harris; M. Taylor; D. Weatherley; Simon Davies; A. Williams; R. Jones; C. Laidlaw; G. Lewis; R. Colclough; R. Appleyard; S. Moore; A. Moore; A. Reynolds; Stuart Davies; Reynolds replaced by M. Evans (20); A. Moore replaced by M. Thomas (37). Referee: J. Fleming (Scotland).

South American river that provided opportunity for catch of a lifetime

My young grandson, Tom, was thrilled with his new car transporter. He was playing with it when he asked if Father Christmas had come to my house, too. As it happens, Father Christmas did come. He popped a small package through my letter box. It contained what a film processing laboratory had long since claimed it had never received: a set of transparencies shot in Tierra del Fuego.

The pictures cleared away the haze of distance and time. One brought back every detail of one of the most memorable hours of fishing that I have ever had. Another provided proof-positive of a sea trout beyond imagining.

It is two years ago this month since I fished the Rio Grande. The river lies like a crack across the coryx of South America's spine. It flows through desolately beautiful, limitless horizons plains, more or less due east from the Andes, it empties into the South Atlantic, more or less midway between the Magellan Straits and Cape Horn. I fished from Kau-Tapen lodge, 20 miles inland on a rolling dirt road. There were six of us there all told, three Argentinians, two Americans and me. We fished singly or in pairs, always with a professional guide armed with spare flies and a vast landing net that had a powerful spring balance built into the handle.

The fishing, in spite of the renowned size of the Rio Grande's sea trout, was all with single-handed trout rods. I used a seven-weight, nine-foot carbon fibre rod equipped with a butt extension to take some strain off my wrist, a large-capacity disc-braked reel and, most of the time, a weight-forward, fast-sinking line.

The line had as much to do with the wind as the water. The Rio Grande is easily wadable on foot. In calm weather, a floating line would have been a delight to use; but, when I was there, the wind blew almost without relenting. It became a living, bullying thing. It whistled about my rod as though through ship's rigging, it flapped any waterproofs about

A belated Christmas present has Brian Clarke reminiscing about a memorable fishing trip to the Rio Grande two years ago

my head like loose sails. The wind whipped tears from my eyes, impressed itself on my cheeks, moved the very ears on my head when it gusted from behind.

When the wind was up, the narrow, heavy sinking line was needed as much to cut through it as to sink through the water. It was all, though, part of the experience and the challenge was to work with the wind and not to struggle against it.

When the wind dropped, which it did from time to time, we shared the high, wide skies with spiralling condors and noisome flights of Magellan geese. We shared the honey-coloured plains with honey-coloured guanacos, llama-like animals that studied us hair-triggered from a distance, edgily curious. We shared the water with the muskrats and the beavers and the fish.

My fear had been that I would arrive too soon for the fish, that coming in early January in a season that runs from January to the end of March would see me miss the main runs. Yet the river was already full of fish, now rolling and splashing, now winking silver, now sullenly lying dog-gone in the long, wide pools. There are rivers quite like

the River Grande in Alaska: wide sweeps that are filled with salmon from bed to surface and bank to bank when the height of the season comes; but, in Alaska at these times, the fishing is too easy. It can be a fish each cast and it is not so much the energy that is to be paced, but the level of interest.

Here, although there were fish in great numbers, they were more dispersed and had to be worked for. We each caught our share, but they were mostly hard-won.

'The wind became a living, bullying thing, blowing almost without relenting'

What fish! In most rivers in Great Britain that contain sea trout — and there are precious few of them — the fish average around 1lb, approaching maybe two. A three-pounder is a nice one, friends hear of four-pounders, five-pounders are noted on Christmas cards to old angling enemies.

In six full days and one evening on the Rio Grande, I caught 23 sea trout — by no means an exceptional score. The smallest weighed 5lb. The average was just a fraction under 10lb. The largest was —

well, very large, at least for me.

The fish came in ones and twos, the daily score gradually creeping up as the week progressed, which is the proper way for any fishing week to reveal itself.

There were many memorable fish. There was the great fish that leapt clean into the distant bank to take its bearings when it was hooked, and that then leapt immediately back into the water ready for the fight. There was the fish that leapt above my head while I was wading chest-deep and which trailed rubies behind it through the red, setting sun.

Above all, there were the fish in the photographs lately delivered, the one recalling a moment in the best day I had, the other freezing forever that sea trout of my lifetime.

The best day began on a long pool with a high bank opposite. With the first cast, I hit a fish that shattered the surface at once and came off. Second cast, I had a solid pool but failed to connect. Third cast, I had a take so violent that it pulled my heart into my mouth.

I stumbled and splashed downstream behind an unseen force, tripped over a

branch that lay white and bleached as an old bone, and eventually landed the fish. We slipped out the barbless hook, my American companion took the photograph of the sea trout, my guide and me that I am looking at now — and then we returned the prize to the water, as we did with every catch that week. It had weighed 13lb.

I made my way back to the same casting spot. Another cast, another thumping take, another rod-creaking breathless fight. A ten-pounder. Next cast, a missed fish. The cast after that, a fish that took with such immense, sudden power that I found myself looking at a shattered line streaming head-high, downwind.

A new leader, a new fly, a new cast and a new fish, a cartwheeling seven-pounder that was 30 yards downstream before I could gather up the loose line and follow. All of this, all of it, in less than an hour and still another 13-pounder and another five-pounder to come.

The great fish came on my last day. It came from the neck of a deep, fast pool: a broad-shouldered, barrel-chested monster of a fish that was impossibly thick even down to the tail. It took forever to land, time after time turning away from the net and bow-waving across the shallows towards the middle; but eventually he fired. I lay the fish gently on the grass, put my rod beside it to give some measure of scale, and took out my camera. Click.

That fish was as exhausted as I was. I can see myself now nursing it back to strength, holding it upright facing the current. I begin to feel it flex and shrug, see its pectoral fins gradually extend and splay; watch as its gulps of oxygen steady and slower; and then the great tail sweeps aside my holding hands and the fish is gone, heading for its destiny in the foothills of the Andes.

So yes, Tom, Father Christmas did come to my house this year. He came in a blue uniform, in broad daylight, on a bicycle; and he brought me a transporter, too.

□ Brian Clarke's fishing column appears on the first Monday of each month.



Proof-positive of a sea trout beyond imagining, Clarke, left, displays his catch

Sharks still in hunt for title

THERE must be something about the Doncaster. Done that is much to the liking of Sheffield Sharks (Nicholas Harling writes). On the very court where they secured the Budweiser League basketball title last spring, the champions swept aside Doncaster Panthers 94-51 on Saturday to emphasise that their defence is far from being a lost cause.

The Panthers were taken

apart by an early burst of 15 successive points that enabled the Sharks to finish the first quarter with a lead of 22-4, after which the outcome was never in doubt.

For once, Huggins, of the Sharks, was unopposed. His 13 points were bettered by Cauthorn, with 23, and Finch, with 16.

If the Sharks are to catch London Towers, the leaders,

they will probably have to beat them twice at Wembley.

Worthing Bears, 106-91 winners against Newcastle Comets on Friday, fell 102-67 away to Derby Storm, despite 30 points from Cunningham. The Comets won 94-89 away to Hemel Hempstead Royals, the bottom club, having led by 20 points at one stage.

Results, page 24

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Montelado's return delayed

FROM OUR IRISH RACING CORRESPONDENT AT LEOPARDSTOWN

MONTIELADO, after his abortive trip to Kempton on the Christmas holiday, will run next in the AIG (European) Irish Champion Hurdle at Leopardstown on January 21.

For Flynn's Champion Hurdle horse, the December Hurdle at Leopardstown yesterday. However, Flynn remained upbeat about his stable star. He said: "He is in good shape but he spent three days at Kempton and we

couldn't even take him out for a canter because the ground was like a road. When we pulled him out this morning, he was just a little quiet in himself so I withdrew him."

With the prevailing soft going, it was probably a wise decision to withdraw the injury-prone gelding as two other Champion Hurdle contenders, Hotel Minella and Balowhar, disappointed behind the surprise 10-1 winner Kharasir, ridden by Mark Dwyer after Graham Bradley was claimed to ride Padre Mio in France.

Hotel Minella started events for the winter to continue the Aidan O'Brien - Charlie Swan run of success but, after making a forward move at the third last, he faded. Balowhar, making his first appearance in almost two years, was always behind.

Tony Mullins has no Champion Hurdle illusions for Kharasir, but the gelding is now 10-1 second favourite for The Ladbrooke hurdle. "He will have to carry 10lb more after winning here and at Thurles earlier last month," Mullins said.

Jamie Osborne missed the ride on Montielado yesterday, but Flynn is not committing himself to a regular jockey for the rest of the season.

Swan and Aidan O'Brien had earlier provided an upset of their own in the Derrys Gold Medal Hurdle Chase when the 14-1 outsider of the seven runners, Double Symphony, battled gallantly to beat the favourite, Ventana Canyon. Richard Dunwoody's mount.

Double Symphony, blinkered for the first time over fences, made the running to the second-last, where a mistake allowed Ventana Canyon to take over. However, Swan rode Ventana Canyon last season, including when runner-up in the Supreme Novices' Hurdle at Cheltenham, and he knew that the favourite does not appreciate being in front too soon.

Swan drove Double Symphony back and, although Ventana Canyon landed over the last in the lead, the mare put her head down and snatched the race by a length and a half.

HOW THUNDERER TOPPED THE TIPSTERS' TABLE FOR 1995

RACING POST

National Press Challenge

Winner: £2,000 • Runner-up: £500 • plus 12 £100 monthly prizes

RECORD FOR ALL RACES THIS YEAR

WINS-TIPS		1995-96		1994-95		1993-94		1992-93		1991-92		1990-91		1989-90		1988-89		1987-88		1986-87		1985-86		1984-85		1983-84		1982-83		1981-82		1980-81		1979-80		1978-79		1977-78		1976-77		1975-76		1974-75		1973-74		1972-73		1971-72		1970-71		1969-70		1968-69		1967-68		1966-67		1965-66		1964-65		1963-64		1962-63		1961-62		1960-61		1959-60		1958-59		1957-58		1956-57		1955-56		1954-55		1953-54		1952-53		1951-52		1950-51		1949-50		1948-49		1947-48		1946-47		1945-46		1944-45		1943-44		1942-43		1941-42		1940-41		1939-40		1938-39		1937-38		1936-37		1935-36		1934-35		1933-34		1932-33		1931-32		1930-31		1929-30		1928-29		1927-28		1926-27		1925-26		1924-25		1923-24		1922-23		1921-22		1920-21		1919-20		1918-19		1917-18		1916-17		1915-16		1914-15		1913-14		1912-13		1911-12		1910-11		1909-10		1908-09		1907-08		1906-07		1905-06		1904-05		1903-04		1902-03		1901-02		1900-01		1899-00		1898-99		1897-98		1896-97		1895-96		1894-95		1893-94		1892-93		1891-92		1890-91		1889-90		1888-89		1887-88		1886-87		1885-86		1884-85		1883-84		1882-83		1881-82		1880-81		1879-80		1878-79		1877-78		1876-77		1875-76		1874-75		1873-74		1872-73		1871-72		1870-71		1869-70		1868-69		1867-68		1866-67		1865-66		1864-65		1863-64		1862-63		1861-62		1860-61		1859-60		1858-59		1857-58		1856-57		1855-56		1854-55		1853-54		1852-53		1851-52		1850-51		1849-50		1848-49		1847-48		1846-47		1845-46		1844-45		1843-44		1842-43		1841-42		1840-41		1839-40		1838-39		1837-38		1836-37		1835-36		1834-35		1833-34		1832-33		1831-32		1830-31		1829-30		1828-29		1827-28		1826-27		1825-26		1824-25		1823-24		1822-23		1821-22		1820-21		1819-20		1818-19		1817-18		1816-17		1815-16		1814-15		1813-14		1812-13		1811-12		1810-11		1809-10		1808-09		1807-08		1806-07		1805-06		1804-05		1803-04		1802-03		1801-02		1800-01		1799-00		1798-99		1797-98		1796-97		1795-96		1794-95		1793-94		1792-93		1791-92		1790-91		1789-90		1788-89		1787-88		1786-87		1785-86		1784-85		1783-84		1782-83		1781-82		1780-81		1779-80		1778-79		1777-78		1776-77		1775-76		1774-75		1773-74		1772-73		1771-72		1770-71		1769-70		1768-69		1767-68		1766-67		1765-66		1764-65		1763-64		1762-63		1761-62		1760-61		1759-60		1758-59		1757-58		1756-57		1755-56		1754-55		1753-54		1752-53		1751-52		1750-51		1749-50		1748-49		1747-48		1746-47		1745-46		1744-45		1743-44		1742-43		1741-42		1740-41		1739-40		1738-39		1737-38		1736-37		1735-36		1734-35		1733-34		1732-33		1731-32		1730-31		1729-30		1728-29		1727-28		1726-27		1725-26		1724-25		1723-24		1722-23		1721-22		1720-21		1719-20		1718-19		1717-18		1716-17		1715-16		1714-15		1713-14		1712-13		1711-12		1710-11		1709-10		1708-09		1707-08		1706-07		1705-06		1704-05		1703-04		1702-03		1701-02		1700-01		1699-00		1698-99		1697-98		1696-97		1695-96		1694-95		1693-94		1692-93		1691-92		1690-91		1689-90		1688-89		1687-88		1686-87		1685-86		1684-85		1683-84		1682-83		1681-82		1680-81		1679-80		1678-79		1677-78		1676-77		1675-76		1674-75		1673-74		1672-73		1671-72		1670-71		1669-70		1668-69		1667-68		1666-67		1665-66		1664-65		1663-64		1662-63		1661-62		1660-61		1659-60		1658-59		1657-58		1656-57		1655-56		1654-55		1653-54		1652-53		1651-52		1650-51		1649-50		1648-49		1647-48		1646-47		1645-46		1644-45		1643-44		1642-43		1641-42		1640-41		1639-40		1638-39		1637-38		1636-37		1635-36		1634-35		1633-34		1632-33		1631-32		1630-31		1629-30		1628-29		1627-28		1626-27		1625-26		1624-25		1623-24		1622-23		1621-22		1620-21		1619-20		1618-19		1617-18		1616-17		1615-16		1614-15		1613-14		1612-13		1611-12		1610-11		1609-10		1608-09		1607-08		1606-07		1605-06		1604-05		1603-04		1602-03		1601-02		1600-01		1599-00		1598-99		1597-98		1596-97		1595-96		1594-95		1593-94		1592-93		1591-92		1590-91		1589-90		1588-89		1587-88		1586-87		1585-86		1584-85		1583-84		1582-83		1581-82		1580-81		1579-80		1578-79		1577-78		1576-77		1575-76		1574-75		1573-74		1572-73		1571-72		1570-71		1569-70		1568-69		1567-68		1566-67		1565-66		1564-65		1563-64		1562-63		1561-62		1560-61		1559-60		1558-59		1557-58		1556-57		1555-56		1554-55		1553-54		1552-53		1551-52		1550-51		1549-50		1548-49		1547-48		1546-47		1545-46		1544-45		1543-44		1542-43		1541-42		1540-41		1539-40		1538-39		1537-38		1536-37		1535-36		1534-35		1533-34		1532-33		1531-32		1530-31		1529-30		1528-29		1527-28		1526-27		1525-26		1524-25		1523-24		1522-23		1521-22		1520-21		1519-20		1518-19		1517-18		1516-17		1515-16		1514-15		1513-14		1512-13		1511-12		1510-11		1509-10		1508-09		1507-08		1506-07		1505-06		1504-05		1503-04		1502-03		1501-02		1500-01		1499-00		1498-99		1497-98		1496-97		1495-96		1494-95		1493-94		1492-93		1491-92		1490-91		1489-90		1488-89		1487-88		1486-87		1485-86		1484-85		1483-84		1482-83		1481-82		1480-81		1479-80		1478-79		1477-78		1476-77		1475-76		1474-75		1473-74		1472-73		1471-72		1470-71		1469-70		1468-69		1467-68		1466-67		1465-66		1464-65		1463-64		1462-63		1461-62		1460-61		1459-60		1458-59		1457-58		1456-57		1455-56		1454-55		1453-54		1452-53		1451-52		1450-51		1449-50		1448-49		1447-48		1446-47		1445-46		1444-45		1443-44		1442-43		144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- July 20: Opening ceremony, Olympic Stadium, Atlanta.
- Archery (Stone Mountain)
- July 29-Aug 1: Men's and women's preliminaries
- July 27-Aug 1: Men's and women's finals
- Aug 2: Women's and men's team quarter-finals, semi-finals, finals.
- Athletics (Olympic Stadium)
- July 28-Aug 2: Preliminaries and finals.
- Aug 3: Final.
- Aug 4: Marathon
- Badminton (Georgia State University)
- July 24-27: Preliminaries
- July 28: Men's and women's singles and doubles quarter-finals.
- July 29: Women's and men's singles semi-finals, women's and men's doubles quarter-finals.
- July 30: Women's and men's singles quarter-finals, women's and men's doubles quarter-finals.
- July 31: Women's and men's singles quarter-finals, women's and men's doubles quarter-finals.
- Aug 1: Women's and men's singles quarter-finals, women's and men's doubles quarter-finals.
- Aug 2: Women's and men's singles quarter-finals, women's and men's doubles quarter-finals.
- Aug 3: Women's and men's singles quarter-finals, women's and men's doubles quarter-finals.
- Aug 4: Women's and men's singles quarter-finals, women's and men's doubles quarter-finals.
- Baseball (Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium)
- July 20-30: Preliminaries.
- Aug 1: Semi-finals.
- Aug 2: Bronze and gold medal games.
- Basketball (Atlanta University Center)
- July 20-30: Men's and women's preliminaries.
- July 30: Men's quarter-finals and classification.
- July 31: Women's quarter-finals and classification.
- Aug 1: Men's and women's classification, men's semi-finals.
- Aug 2: Women's semi-finals, men's final.
- Aug 3: Women's final, men's bronze and gold medal.
- Aug 4: Women's bronze and gold medal.
- Boxing (Georgia Tech)
- July 20-30: Preliminaries.
- July 30-31: Quarter-finals.
- Aug 1-2: Semi-finals.
- Aug 3: Gold medal, first session.
- Aug 4: Gold medal, second session.
- Canoe-Kayak (Lake Lanier, Gainesville)
- July 20-30: Preliminaries.
- July 27: Women's K1 final, men's C1 final.
- July 28: Men's C2 final, men's K1 final.
- July 29: Women's K1 final, men's K1 final.
- July 30-31: Preliminaries.
- Aug 1: Men's 100m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 2: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 3: Men's 1,000m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 4: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Cycling (Georgia Tech)
- July 20-30: Preliminaries.
- July 27: Women's K1 final, men's C1 final.
- July 28: Men's C2 final, men's K1 final.
- July 29: Women's K1 final, men's K1 final.
- July 30-31: Preliminaries.
- Aug 1: Men's 100m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 2: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 3: Men's 1,000m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 4: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Diving (Georgia Tech)
- July 20-30: Preliminaries.
- July 27: Women's K1 final, men's C1 final.
- July 28: Men's C2 final, men's K1 final.
- July 29: Women's K1 final, men's K1 final.
- July 30-31: Preliminaries.
- Aug 1: Men's 100m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 2: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 3: Men's 1,000m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 4: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Equestrian (Georgia International Horse Park)
- July 20-30: Preliminaries.
- July 27: Women's K1 final, men's C1 final.
- July 28: Men's C2 final, men's K1 final.
- July 29: Women's K1 final, men's K1 final.
- July 30-31: Preliminaries.
- Aug 1: Men's 100m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 2: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 3: Men's 1,000m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 4: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Fencing (Georgia Tech)
- July 20-30: Preliminaries.
- July 27: Women's K1 final, men's C1 final.
- July 28: Men's C2 final, men's K1 final.
- July 29: Women's K1 final, men's K1 final.
- July 30-31: Preliminaries.
- Aug 1: Men's 100m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 2: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 3: Men's 1,000m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 4: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Gymnastics (Georgia Tech)
- July 20-30: Preliminaries.
- July 27: Women's K1 final, men's C1 final.
- July 28: Men's C2 final, men's K1 final.
- July 29: Women's K1 final, men's K1 final.
- July 30-31: Preliminaries.
- Aug 1: Men's 100m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 2: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 3: Men's 1,000m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 4: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Handball (Georgia Tech)
- July 20-30: Preliminaries.
- July 27: Women's K1 final, men's C1 final.
- July 28: Men's C2 final, men's K1 final.
- July 29: Women's K1 final, men's K1 final.
- July 30-31: Preliminaries.
- Aug 1: Men's 100m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 2: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 3: Men's 1,000m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 4: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Hockey (Atlanta University Center)
- July 20-30: Preliminaries.
- July 27: Women's K1 final, men's C1 final.
- July 28: Men's C2 final, men's K1 final.
- July 29: Women's K1 final, men's K1 final.
- July 30-31: Preliminaries.
- Aug 1: Men's 100m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 2: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 3: Men's 1,000m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 4: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Judo (Georgia Tech)
- July 20-30: Preliminaries.
- July 27: Women's K1 final, men's C1 final.
- July 28: Men's C2 final, men's K1 final.
- July 29: Women's K1 final, men's K1 final.
- July 30-31: Preliminaries.
- Aug 1: Men's 100m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 2: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 3: Men's 1,000m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 4: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Modern pentathlon (Georgia Tech)
- July 20-30: Preliminaries.
- July 27: Women's K1 final, men's C1 final.
- July 28: Men's C2 final, men's K1 final.
- July 29: Women's K1 final, men's K1 final.
- July 30-31: Preliminaries.
- Aug 1: Men's 100m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 2: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 3: Men's 1,000m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 4: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Rowing (Lake Lanier, Gainesville)
- July 20-30: Preliminaries.
- July 27: Women's K1 final, men's C1 final.
- July 28: Men's C2 final, men's K1 final.
- July 29: Women's K1 final, men's K1 final.
- July 30-31: Preliminaries.
- Aug 1: Men's 100m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 2: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 3: Men's 1,000m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 4: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Sailing (Lake Lanier, Gainesville)
- July 20-30: Preliminaries.
- July 27: Women's K1 final, men's C1 final.
- July 28: Men's C2 final, men's K1 final.
- July 29: Women's K1 final, men's K1 final.
- July 30-31: Preliminaries.
- Aug 1: Men's 100m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 2: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 3: Men's 1,000m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 4: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Shooting (Lake Lanier, Gainesville)
- July 20-30: Preliminaries.
- July 27: Women's K1 final, men's C1 final.
- July 28: Men's C2 final, men's K1 final.
- July 29: Women's K1 final, men's K1 final.
- July 30-31: Preliminaries.
- Aug 1: Men's 100m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 2: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 3: Men's 1,000m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 4: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Swimming (Georgia Tech)
- July 20-30: Preliminaries.
- July 27: Women's K1 final, men's C1 final.
- July 28: Men's C2 final, men's K1 final.
- July 29: Women's K1 final, men's K1 final.
- July 30-31: Preliminaries.
- Aug 1: Men's 100m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 2: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 3: Men's 1,000m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 4: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Table tennis (Georgia Tech)
- July 20-30: Preliminaries.
- July 27: Women's K1 final, men's C1 final.
- July 28: Men's C2 final, men's K1 final.
- July 29: Women's K1 final, men's K1 final.
- July 30-31: Preliminaries.
- Aug 1: Men's 100m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 2: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 3: Men's 1,000m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 4: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Tennis (Georgia Tech)
- July 20-30: Preliminaries.
- July 27: Women's K1 final, men's C1 final.
- July 28: Men's C2 final, men's K1 final.
- July 29: Women's K1 final, men's K1 final.
- July 30-31: Preliminaries.
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- Aug 2: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 3: Men's 1,000m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 4: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Volleyball (Georgia Tech)
- July 20-30: Preliminaries.
- July 27: Women's K1 final, men's C1 final.
- July 28: Men's C2 final, men's K1 final.
- July 29: Women's K1 final, men's K1 final.
- July 30-31: Preliminaries.
- Aug 1: Men's 100m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 2: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 3: Men's 1,000m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 4: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Water polo (Georgia Tech)
- July 20-30: Preliminaries.
- July 27: Women's K1 final, men's C1 final.
- July 28: Men's C2 final, men's K1 final.
- July 29: Women's K1 final, men's K1 final.
- July 30-31: Preliminaries.
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- Aug 2: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 3: Men's 1,000m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 4: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Weightlifting (Georgia Tech)
- July 20-30: Preliminaries.
- July 27: Women's K1 final, men's C1 final.
- July 28: Men's C2 final, men's K1 final.
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- Aug 2: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 3: Men's 1,000m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 4: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Winter sports (Georgia Tech)
- July 20-30: Preliminaries.
- July 27: Women's K1 final, men's C1 final.
- July 28: Men's C2 final, men's K1 final.
- July 29: Women's K1 final, men's K1 final.
- July 30-31: Preliminaries.
- Aug 1: Men's 100m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 2: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 3: Men's 1,000m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 4: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.

Atlanta prepares for the greatest show of them all

John Goodbody still believes the Olympic Games to be the peak of sporting endeavour

There is no event on the sporting calendar of quite such international interest or wide-ranging fascination as the Olympics. The 1996 Games in Atlanta will celebrate the centenary of the first modern Games in Athens and will be attended by a record 196 countries, only North Korea having refused an invitation.

It is the range of the activities that are encompassed within the 17 days of the Games that makes the Olympics such a compelling experience for spectators and billions of television viewers. The speed of the sprinter, the flexibility of the gymnast, the strength of the weightlifter and the endurance of the marathon runner contribute to a spectacle that is matchless in its scope and quality. Certain countries, through tradition or particular ability, are expected to dominate certain activities in the programme of 26 sports. The Kenyan distance runners, the Japanese judo fighters and the American basketball players provide different aspects of the physical and technical properties of mankind.

However, what often separates the gold from the silver medal-winner is not physical but psychological dominance. The champion is frequently the athlete who achieves the focused determination on the day of the final.

No contemporary competitor has more consistently demonstrated this facility than oarsman Steve Redgrave who will be attempting to win a gold medal in four successive Olympic Games. This would be a unique feat in world rowing and also in any British sport.

It would bring him level with two Olympic legends, Al Oerter, discus champion from 1956 to 1968, and Paul Elvstrom, the Dane, who won four Finn class yachting titles between 1948 and 1960. Only Aladar Gerevich, who was a member of the successful Hungarian sabre team from 1932 to 1960 (when he was 50) would stand higher in the Olympic pantheon.

Redgrave will be competing in the coxed pairs with Matthew Pinsent, his partner in the 1992 Olympics. Since Barcelona, the pair have remained unbeaten and last year, they took their fourth successive world title.

Britain will also have a cluster of other prospective medal winners in rowing as well as in judo, yachting and swimming, where Mark Foster, Nick Gillingham,



Michael Johnson will be looking to complete a unique Olympic double at 200 and 400 metres

Karen Pickering and Sarah Hardcastle are among the more talented competitors.

However, the track is where the most intense interest will be. The 85,000-seater Olympic stadium will be opened in May, used for three months and then converted for baseball. In its short life it will see US Olympic trials and the Games themselves. Even if Linford Christie decides not to

defend his 100 metres title, Britain should still have available hurdlers Colin Jackson and Sally Gunnell, javelin thrower Steve Backley, middle-distance runner Kelly Holmes and triple jumper Jonathan Edwards, whose self-deprecating charm contrasts starkly with so much in an increasingly commercialised sport.

Edwards was the international athlete of the year for 1995 but

even he will be hard pressed to retain this title if Michael Johnson completes a unique Olympic double of the 200 and 400 metres. The person who came closest to this feat was Eric Liddell, with a gold in the 400 metres in the "Charlottesville" Games of 1924, when sport languished in a more innocent age.

Then there is Haile Gebrselassie, of Ethiopia, who broke both



Steve Redgrave is seeking to add to his three gold medals



Can Jonathan Edwards repeat last year's triple jump feats?

5,000 and 10,000 metres world records in 1995 and may attempt the double which brought immortality to men like Emil Zapotek, Vladimir Kuts and Lasse Viren. These will certainly be the Games of the United States, in the city which is the headquarters of Coca-Cola, its most famous product, and in the country whose television pays more than 50 per cent of the worldwide rights.

Atlanta is expecting 200,000 visitors for an event which has 11 million tickets on sale, beginning with the opening ceremony on July 19. When Los Angeles staged the 1984 Olympics, the venues of even the smallest sports were packed. The Americans revere the Olympics. For them, and for so many other countries, they remain the zenith of sporting endeavour.

- Rowing (Lake Lanier, Gainesville)
- July 20-30: Preliminaries.
- July 27: Women's K1 final, men's C1 final.
- July 28: Men's C2 final, men's K1 final.
- July 29: Women's K1 final, men's K1 final.
- July 30-31: Preliminaries.
- Aug 1: Men's 100m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 2: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 3: Men's 1,000m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 4: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Sailing (Lake Lanier, Gainesville)
- July 20-30: Preliminaries.
- July 27: Women's K1 final, men's C1 final.
- July 28: Men's C2 final, men's K1 final.
- July 29: Women's K1 final, men's K1 final.
- July 30-31: Preliminaries.
- Aug 1: Men's 100m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 2: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 3: Men's 1,000m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 4: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Shooting (Lake Lanier, Gainesville)
- July 20-30: Preliminaries.
- July 27: Women's K1 final, men's C1 final.
- July 28: Men's C2 final, men's K1 final.
- July 29: Women's K1 final, men's K1 final.
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- Aug 2: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 3: Men's 1,000m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 4: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Swimming (Georgia Tech)
- July 20-30: Preliminaries.
- July 27: Women's K1 final, men's C1 final.
- July 28: Men's C2 final, men's K1 final.
- July 29: Women's K1 final, men's K1 final.
- July 30-31: Preliminaries.
- Aug 1: Men's 100m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 2: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 3: Men's 1,000m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 4: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Table tennis (Georgia Tech)
- July 20-30: Preliminaries.
- July 27: Women's K1 final, men's C1 final.
- July 28: Men's C2 final, men's K1 final.
- July 29: Women's K1 final, men's K1 final.
- July 30-31: Preliminaries.
- Aug 1: Men's 100m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 2: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 3: Men's 1,000m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 4: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Tennis (Georgia Tech)
- July 20-30: Preliminaries.
- July 27: Women's K1 final, men's C1 final.
- July 28: Men's C2 final, men's K1 final.
- July 29: Women's K1 final, men's K1 final.
- July 30-31: Preliminaries.
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- Aug 2: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 3: Men's 1,000m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 4: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Volleyball (Georgia Tech)
- July 20-30: Preliminaries.
- July 27: Women's K1 final, men's C1 final.
- July 28: Men's C2 final, men's K1 final.
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- Aug 2: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 3: Men's 1,000m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 4: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Water polo (Georgia Tech)
- July 20-30: Preliminaries.
- July 27: Women's K1 final, men's C1 final.
- July 28: Men's C2 final, men's K1 final.
- July 29: Women's K1 final, men's K1 final.
- July 30-31: Preliminaries.
- Aug 1: Men's 100m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 2: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 3: Men's 1,000m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 4: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Weightlifting (Georgia Tech)
- July 20-30: Preliminaries.
- July 27: Women's K1 final, men's C1 final.
- July 28: Men's C2 final, men's K1 final.
- July 29: Women's K1 final, men's K1 final.
- July 30-31: Preliminaries.
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- Aug 3: Men's 1,000m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 4: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Winter sports (Georgia Tech)
- July 20-30: Preliminaries.
- July 27: Women's K1 final, men's C1 final.
- July 28: Men's C2 final, men's K1 final.
- July 29: Women's K1 final, men's K1 final.
- July 30-31: Preliminaries.
- Aug 1: Men's 100m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
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- Aug 3: Men's 1,000m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 4: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.

- Archery (Stone Mountain)
- July 29-Aug 1: Men's and women's preliminaries
- July 27-Aug 1: Men's and women's finals
- Aug 2: Women's and men's team quarter-finals, semi-finals, finals.
- Athletics (Olympic Stadium)
- July 28-Aug 2: Preliminaries and finals.
- Aug 3: Final.
- Aug 4: Marathon
- Badminton (Georgia State University)
- July 24-27: Preliminaries
- July 28: Men's and women's singles and doubles quarter-finals.
- July 29: Women's and men's singles semi-finals, women's and men's doubles quarter-finals.
- July 30: Women's and men's singles quarter-finals, women's and men's doubles quarter-finals.
- July 31: Women's and men's singles quarter-finals, women's and men's doubles quarter-finals.
- Aug 1: Women's and men's singles quarter-finals, women's and men's doubles quarter-finals.
- Aug 2: Women's and men's singles quarter-finals, women's and men's doubles quarter-finals.
- Baseball (Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium)
- July 20-30: Preliminaries.
- Aug 1: Semi-finals.
- Aug 2: Bronze and gold medal games.
- Basketball (Atlanta University Center)
- July 20-30: Men's and women's preliminaries.
- July 30: Men's quarter-finals and classification.
- July 31: Women's quarter-finals and classification.
- Aug 1: Men's and women's classification, men's semi-finals.
- Aug 2: Women's semi-finals, men's final.
- Aug 3: Women's final, men's bronze and gold medal.
- Aug 4: Women's bronze and gold medal.
- Boxing (Georgia Tech)
- July 20-30: Preliminaries.
- July 30-31: Quarter-finals.
- Aug 1-2: Semi-finals.
- Aug 3: Gold medal, first session.
- Aug 4: Gold medal, second session.
- Canoe-Kayak (Lake Lanier, Gainesville)
- July 20-30: Preliminaries.
- July 27: Women's K1 final, men's C1 final.
- July 28: Men's C2 final, men's K1 final.
- July 29: Women's K1 final, men's K1 final.
- July 30-31: Preliminaries.
- Aug 1: Men's 100m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 2: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 3: Men's 1,000m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 4: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Cycling (Georgia Tech)
- July 20-30: Preliminaries.
- July 27: Women's K1 final, men's C1 final.
- July 28: Men's C2 final, men's K1 final.
- July 29: Women's K1 final, men's K1 final.
- July 30-31: Preliminaries.
- Aug 1: Men's 100m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 2: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 3: Men's 1,000m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 4: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Diving (Georgia Tech)
- July 20-30: Preliminaries.
- July 27: Women's K1 final, men's C1 final.
- July 28: Men's C2 final, men's K1 final.
- July 29: Women's K1 final, men's K1 final.
- July 30-31: Preliminaries.
- Aug 1: Men's 100m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 2: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 3: Men's 1,000m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 4: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Equestrian (Georgia International Horse Park)
- July 20-30: Preliminaries.
- July 27: Women's K1 final, men's C1 final.
- July 28: Men's C2 final, men's K1 final.
- July 29: Women's K1 final, men's K1 final.
- July 30-31: Preliminaries.
- Aug 1: Men's 100m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 2: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 3: Men's 1,000m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 4: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Fencing (Georgia Tech)
- July 20-30: Preliminaries.
- July 27: Women's K1 final, men's C1 final.
- July 28: Men's C2 final, men's K1 final.
- July 29: Women's K1 final, men's K1 final.
- July 30-31: Preliminaries.
- Aug 1: Men's 100m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 2: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 3: Men's 1,000m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 4: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Gymnastics (Georgia Tech)
- July 20-30: Preliminaries.
- July 27: Women's K1 final, men's C1 final.
- July 28: Men's C2 final, men's K1 final.
- July 29: Women's K1 final, men's K1 final.
- July 30-31: Preliminaries.
- Aug 1: Men's 100m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 2: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 3: Men's 1,000m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 4: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Handball (Georgia Tech)
- July 20-30: Preliminaries.
- July 27: Women's K1 final, men's C1 final.
- July 28: Men's C2 final, men's K1 final.
- July 29: Women's K1 final, men's K1 final.
- July 30-31: Preliminaries.
- Aug 1: Men's 100m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 2: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 3: Men's 1,000m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Aug 4: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K4 semi-final.
- Hockey (Atlanta University Center)
- July 20-30: Preliminaries.
- July 27: Women's K1 final, men's C1 final.
- July 28: Men's C2 final, men's K1 final.
- July 29: Women's K1 final, men's K1 final.
- July 30-31: Preliminaries.
- Aug 1: Men's 10

The Times calendar of sport 1996

World Cup seeks to embrace cricket's growing brotherhood

These days the administrators of every sport seem to be staging a global jamboree every four years and spending the next three tinkering with the product. What can they do to extract more money from sponsors and television next time? How can they keep up the sport's profile with competitors? Tinker, tinker, tinker, that is how — and in doing so, they sorely test the patience and commitment of the devoted follower.



Simon Wilde questions whether an expanded tournament will satisfy cricketing devotees

It was widely accepted that the last tournament, in which the nine teams were reduced to four semi-finalists by means of one league, employed the fairest format yet adopted. This time the weeding out will be more laborious, with the 12 teams divided into two leagues of six, at the conclusion of which — in all probability — just one Test team will have been eliminated.

The organisers, who are sure to reap large profits, will not care about this absurdity and nor will the television companies, who expect that the final in Lahore on March 17 will claim a worldwide audience of 1.5 billion, an impressive increase on the one billion that watched Pakistan beat England by 22 runs in Melbourne four years ago.

Tendulkar and Brian Lara may vie for the batting honours, three spinners, Anil Kumble, Mushtaq Ahmed and Shane Warne, for the bowling plaudits and Jonty Rhodes may remain pre-eminent in the outfield.

For those who succeed, there will be sizeable riches: not through prize-money, which remains insultingly meagre (the winning team will collect a mere £20,000), but from commercial spin-offs and gifts from governments and admirers.

And this, of course, is where the trouble started after the last World Cup, when Pakistan's players — in the words of Imran Khan, then their captain — "got greedy". Materialism dominated their thoughts and led, it has been alleged, to profiteering on the outcome of their matches and attempts at match-fixing.

The position of the International Cricket Council (ICC), the world governing body, is open to ridicule by the fact that it is not responsible for the day-to-day running of this World Cup. That is in the hands of the hosts, whose organising committee recently needed to be urged to take responsibility for scrutinising ground safety after several people were killed and many injured when a wall collapsed at Nagpur.

If only for the sake of its own credibility, the ICC will be anxious that the tournament passes off smoothly, which may also depend on India and Pakistan not being drawn together in the knockout stages. For political and ethnic reasons, they have not met at anything but a neutral venue for six years.

Despite their troubles, Pakistan still possess the talent to win again; so too, do West Indies. Victory might heal the divisions; an early exit for either could lead to further

1996 CRICKET WORLD CUP

The World Cup in India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka is the first to be played on more grounds than in any of the previous tournaments. The 1996 tournament, from February to March 17, will embrace 12 teams and 37 matches. The tournament will be divided into two groups of six with the top four in each group playing in the quarter-finals. Pakistan are the defending champions.

GROUP A

- Australia
- West Indies
- Sri Lanka
- Zimbabwe
- Nepal

GROUP B

- Pakistan
- England
- New Zealand
- South Africa
- Holland
- United Arab Emirates

QUARTER-FINALS

- Mar 8: Winner group A v Winner group B
- Mar 9: Third group A v Third group B
- Mar 10: Winner group A v Winner group B
- Mar 11: Third group A v Third group B

SEMI-FINALS

- Mar 12: Winner QF1 v Winner QF2
- Mar 13: Winner QF3 v Winner QF4

FINAL

- Mar 17: Winner SF1 v Winner SF2



Imran Khan (holding flag) and his Pakistan team celebrate victory in the 1992 final

FIRST-CLASS CRICKET FIXTURES 1996

APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
<p>13-UNIVERSITY MATCH (one day) The Parks, Oxford University v Gloucestershire</p> <p>14-REPRESENTATIVE MATCH (four days) Southampton, Hampshire v Gloucestershire</p> <p>15-UNIVERSITY MATCHES (three days) Fenner's, Cambridge University v Glamorgan Fenner's, Cambridge University v Durham</p> <p>16-COUNTRY MATCH (four days) Old Trafford, Lancashire v Yorkshire</p> <p>17-TELETYPE CHALLENGE SERIES (three days) Old Trafford, Lancashire v Yorkshire</p> <p>18-TELETYPE CHALLENGE SERIES (three days) Old Trafford, Lancashire v Yorkshire</p> <p>19-TELETYPE CHALLENGE SERIES (three days) Old Trafford, Lancashire v Yorkshire</p> <p>20-TELETYPE CHALLENGE SERIES (three days) Old Trafford, Lancashire v Yorkshire</p> <p>21-TELETYPE CHALLENGE SERIES (three days) Old Trafford, Lancashire v Yorkshire</p> <p>22-TELETYPE CHALLENGE SERIES (three days) Old Trafford, Lancashire v Yorkshire</p> <p>23-TELETYPE CHALLENGE SERIES (three days) Old Trafford, Lancashire v Yorkshire</p> <p>24-TELETYPE CHALLENGE SERIES 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disunity, not to mention dismissals among the managerial ranks.

England, three times runners-up, are perhaps too inconsistent to go one step further this time but their biggest handicap is a woeful

lack of experience at tackling limited-overs tournaments. Since the last World Cup, they have participated in fewer of these than any of the other Test-playing countries.

Sri Lanka are attractive underdogs. In October they

won the Champions Trophy in Sharjah and turned in some excellent performances, including a bold attempt to chase 334 to beat West Indies.

But, on recent form, India and Australia are in a class of their own. They have each

won four limited-overs events since the last World Cup: India winning the Hero Cup in 1993 and a triangular competition with West Indies and New Zealand last year. It will take a fine side to stop either of them.

OVERSEAS FIXTURES

<p>Jan 1: World Series, Australia v West Indies, Sydney</p> <p>Jan 2-6: Fifth Test match, South Africa v England, Cape Town</p> <p>Jan 5: World Series, Sri Lanka v West Indies, Brisbane</p> <p>Jan 7: World Series, Australia v West Indies, Sydney</p> <p>Jan 9: First one-day international, South Africa v England, Cape Town</p> <p>Jan 11: Second one-day international, South Africa v England, Cape Town</p> <p>Jan 12: World Series, Australia v Sri Lanka, Perth</p> <p>Jan 13: Third one-day international, South Africa v England, Johannesburg</p> <p>Jan 13-17: First Test match, New Zealand v Zimbabwe, Hamilton</p>	<p>Jan 14: Fourth one-day international, South Africa v England, Cape Town</p> <p>Jan 15: World Series, Australia v Sri Lanka, Perth</p> <p>Jan 17: Fifth one-day international, South Africa v England, Cape Town</p> <p>Jan 18: World Series, second final, Sydney</p> <p>Jan 19-24: Second Test match, New Zealand v Zimbabwe, Auckland</p> <p>Jan 21: Seventh one-day international, South Africa v England, Cape Town</p> <p>Jan 22: World Series, third final, Sydney</p> <p>Jan 25-29: Third Test match, Australia v Sri Lanka, Adelaide</p> <p>Mar 20: First one-day international, West Indies v New Zealand, St John's</p> <p>Mar 20-22: Second one-day international, West Indies v New Zealand, St John's</p>	<p>Mar 30: Third one-day international, West Indies v New Zealand, St John's</p> <p>Apr 1: Fourth one-day international, West Indies v New Zealand, St John's</p> <p>Apr 8: Fifth one-day international, West Indies v New Zealand, St John's</p> <p>Apr 19-24: First Test match, West Indies v New Zealand, Barbados</p> <p>Apr 27-May 2: Second Test match, West Indies v New Zealand, Barbados</p> <p>Nov 30: Darts, England v Ireland, Harewood</p> <p>Dec 1: President's XI v England XI, Harewood</p> <p>Dec 3-6: Match, England v England XI, Harewood</p> <p>Dec 10-13: Match, England v England XI, Harewood</p> <p>Dec 15: First one-day international, Zimbabwe v England, Harare</p> <p>Dec 18-22: First Test match, Zimbabwe v England, Harare</p> <p>Dec 25-30: Second Test match, Zimbabwe v England, Harare</p>
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Other matches at Lord's

<p>May 1: MCC v MCC Young Cricketers</p> <p>May 21: MCC v MCC Old Cricketers</p> <p>May 22: MCC v Midlands Club Cricket Conference</p> <p>June 15: England v New Zealand (women)</p> <p>June 25: Eton v Harrow (professional)</p> <p>July 18: MCC v MCC Schools</p> <p>July 17: MCC Schools v MCC</p> <p>July 18: MCC v MCC Schools</p> <p>Aug 20: Lord's World Challenge (under-19s)</p> <p>Aug 28: MCC Trophy final</p> <p>Aug 30: Abbot's club championship final</p> <p>Sep 1: Alliance & Leicester, Abbot's Village</p> <p>Sep 10: MCC v Cricket Touring Club De Harrogate</p>	<p>May 1: MCC v MCC Young Cricketers</p> <p>May 21: MCC v MCC Old Cricketers</p> <p>May 22: MCC v Midlands Club Cricket Conference</p> <p>June 15: England v New Zealand (women)</p> <p>June 25: Eton v Harrow (professional)</p> <p>July 18: MCC v MCC Schools</p> <p>July 17: MCC Schools v MCC</p> <p>July 18: MCC v MCC Schools</p> <p>Aug 20: Lord's World Challenge (under-19s)</p> <p>Aug 28: MCC Trophy final</p> <p>Aug 30: Abbot's club championship final</p> <p>Sep 1: Alliance & Leicester, Abbot's Village</p> <p>Sep 10: MCC v Cricket Touring Club De Harrogate</p>
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The Times calendar of sport 1996

Continued from page 29

DISABLED SPORT

Feb 4-10: Para and Federation Cups of Wheelchair Tennis, Melbourne.
Feb 10-11: National air rifle championships, Wetherham.
Feb 10-18: European skiing championships, Sweden (vets).
Apr 24-25: European cycling championships, Florence.
May 11-12: BSAD national bowls championships, Scarborough.
May 11-19: European basketball championships, Krakow, Poland.
June 1-2: ST national long course swimming championships, Sheffield; National bowls championships, Nottingham.
June 23-24: National para-athletics championships, Birmingham.
July 22-27: British open wheelchair tennis championships, Nottingham.
Aug 7-13: European deaf tennis championships, Sheffield.
Aug 12-18: European championships, Wrotham.
Aug 16-25: Paralympic Games, Atlanta.
Sept 14-15: National athletics championships, Nottingham.
Sept 16-22: European orienteering championships, St Gallen, Switzerland.
Nov 2-3: BT national short course swimming championships, Darlington.

EQUESTRIAN

Mar 31-34: Tokyo national showjumping championships, Stoneleigh Park.
Apr 17-21: Volvo World Cup showjumping trials, Billesdon.
May 2-5: Mitsubishi Motors Badminton Horse Trials.
May 25-28: Windsor Horse Trials.
May 30-June 2: Nations Cup, Hickstead.
June 4-5: Bramham three-day event.
July 1-4: Royal Show, Stoneleigh Park.
July 11-14: Royal International Horse Show, Weymouth.
Aug 15-18: Silk Cut Hickstead Showjumping Derby.
Aug 17-18: Pegasus Churn Scottish championships, Benwell, Newcastle.
Aug 21-22: British Open Championship, Stoneleigh Park.
Sept 5-8: Pegasus Churn Buryham Horse Trials.
Sept 19-22: Bramham three-day event.
Sept 21-22: British national dressage championships, Airedale.
Oct 2-5: Horse of the Year Show, Wembley.
Dec 18-22: Olympia International showjumping championships.

FA CUP

Jan 27: British sports championships; Corby Cup (international) semi-finals.
Mar 8: National veterans' championships.
Mar 16: British sledge championships.
Mar 28: Public School sledge championships.
Mar 27: Ipswich Cup (women).
Apr 4-6: Junior/collegiate world championships, Belgium.
Apr 27: British intermediate football championships.
May 4: British football championships.
May 18: British men's sledge cup.

FA CUP

Jan 12: FA Cup, third round; Tannets Cup, second round.
Jan 12: FA Cup, third round; Tannets Cup, second round.
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Jan 12: FA Cup, third round; Tannets Cup, second round.

SEEDING

May 12-25: British overseas national championships, Leszno, Poland.
June 1-15: European championships, Raynham, Finland.
June 1-15: Open class British national championships, Leszno, Poland.
June 23-30: Club class championships, Nymphenburg, Glöcknerhof.
June 23-30: European club class championships, Slovenia.
June 23-30: World Masters, Glöcknerhof.
June 23-30: Standard class British national championships, Glöcknerhof.
Aug 21-25: 15m class British national championships, Habsburg, Slovenia.

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Aug 21-25: 15m class British national championships, Habsburg, Slovenia.



Michael Schumacher celebrates his second motor racing world championship with the head of Benetton, Flavio Briatore. Schumacher will drive for Ferrari in 1996

Jan 12: US PGA, Valhalla GC, Louisville; Hole-in-One Open, Litchfield, Australia.
Jan 12: US PGA, Valhalla GC, Louisville; Hole-in-One Open, Litchfield, Australia.
Jan 12: US PGA, Valhalla GC, Louisville; Hole-in-One Open, Litchfield, Australia.
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Jan 12: US PGA, Valhalla GC, Louisville; Hole-in-One Open, Litchfield, Australia.
Jan 12: US PGA, Valhalla GC, Louisville; Hole-in-One Open, Litchfield, Australia.
Jan 12: US PGA, Valhalla GC, Louisville; Hole-in-One Open, Litchfield, Australia.

STEVE ETHERINGTON

July 30: William Hill Cup, Goodwood.
Aug 1: Sunbeam Stakes, Goodwood.
Aug 2: Sunbeam Stakes, Goodwood.
Aug 3: Sunbeam Stakes, Goodwood.
Aug 4: Sunbeam Stakes, Goodwood.
Aug 5: Sunbeam Stakes, Goodwood.
Aug 6: Sunbeam Stakes, Goodwood.
Aug 7: Sunbeam Stakes, Goodwood.
Aug 8: Sunbeam Stakes, Goodwood.
Aug 9: Sunbeam Stakes, Goodwood.
Aug 10: Sunbeam Stakes, Goodwood.

RACKETS

Jan 27-28: Professional singles championships, Harlow.
Jan 27-28: Professional singles championships, Harlow.
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Jan 27-28: Professional singles championships, Harlow.
Jan 27-28: Professional singles championships, Harlow.
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Jan 27-28: Professional singles championships, Harlow.
Jan 27-28: Professional singles championships, Harlow.
Jan 27-28: Professional singles championships, Harlow.

REAL TENNIS

Jan 5-6: Professional doubles, Queen's Club.
Jan 5-6: Professional doubles, Queen's Club.
Jan 5-6: Professional doubles, Queen's Club.
Jan 5-6: Professional doubles, Queen's Club.
Jan 5-6: Professional doubles, Queen's Club.
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Jan 5-6: Professional doubles, Queen's Club.
Jan 5-6: Professional doubles, Queen's Club.

ROWING

Feb 21-24: Oxford University Torpids.
Feb 21-24: Oxford University Torpids.
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Feb 21-24: Oxford University Torpids.
Feb 21-24: Oxford University Torpids.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Jan 12: Rugby League.
Jan 12: Rugby League.
Jan 12: Rugby League.
Jan 12: Rugby League.
Jan 12: Rugby League.
Jan 12: Rugby League.
Jan 12: Rugby League.
Jan 12: Rugby League.
Jan 12: Rugby League.
Jan 12: Rugby League.

POWERBOATING

Oct 14: World offshore boat racing championships, Dunoon.
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Oct 14: World offshore boat racing championships, Dunoon.

RACING

Jan 12: King George VI Trophy Chase, Sandown Park.
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Jan 12: King George VI Trophy Chase, Sandown Park.

RUGBY UNION

Jan 12: United States v Ireland, Atlanta; Italy v Scotland A, Rome.
Jan 12: United States v Ireland, Atlanta; Italy v Scotland A, Rome.
Jan 12: United States v Ireland, Atlanta; Italy v Scotland A, Rome.
Jan 12: United States v Ireland, Atlanta; Italy v Scotland A, Rome.
Jan 12: United States v Ireland, Atlanta; Italy v Scotland A, Rome.
Jan 12: United States v Ireland, Atlanta; Italy v Scotland A, Rome.
Jan 12: United States v Ireland, Atlanta; Italy v Scotland A, Rome.
Jan 12: United States v Ireland, Atlanta; Italy v Scotland A, Rome.
Jan 12: United States v Ireland, Atlanta; Italy v Scotland A, Rome.
Jan 12: United States v Ireland, Atlanta; Italy v Scotland A, Rome.

NETBALL

Feb 11: England v Scotland, Glasgow.
Feb 11: England v Scotland, Glasgow.
Feb 11: England v Scotland, Glasgow.
Feb 11: England v Scotland, Glasgow.
Feb 11: England v Scotland, Glasgow.
Feb 11: England v Scotland, Glasgow.
Feb 11: England v Scotland, Glasgow.
Feb 11: England v Scotland, Glasgow.
Feb 11: England v Scotland, Glasgow.
Feb 11: England v Scotland, Glasgow.

ORIENTEERING

Mar 2: British night championships, Wales.
Mar 2: British night championships, Wales.
Mar 2: British night championships, Wales.
Mar 2: British night championships, Wales.
Mar 2: British night championships, Wales.
Mar 2: British night championships, Wales.
Mar 2: British night championships, Wales.
Mar 2: British night championships, Wales.
Mar 2: British night championships, Wales.
Mar 2: British night championships, Wales.

POLO

May 10-26: Prince of Wales Trophy, RCBC.
May 10-26: Prince of Wales Trophy, RCBC.
May 10-26: Prince of Wales Trophy, RCBC.
May 10-26: Prince of Wales Trophy, RCBC.
May 10-26: Prince of Wales Trophy, RCBC.
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May 10-26: Prince of Wales Trophy, RCBC.
May 10-26: Prince of Wales Trophy, RCBC.
May 10-26: Prince of Wales Trophy, RCBC.
May 10-26: Prince of Wales Trophy, RCBC.

Continued on page 32



Mark Tinker, left, of James Capel, is bullish about the coming year, expecting a year-end FT-SE 100 index of 4,000, while Michael Hughes, at BZW, forecasts a more cautious 3,750

Equity strategists play it safe as election casts a shadow over City

After a year in which many forecasters were well off the mark
Philip Pangalos asks several analysts for their 1996 predictions

After a spectacular recovery for UK equities in 1995, City wizards and gurus have been peering into their crystal balls to see what 1996 holds for the UK stock market in the run-up to the next general election.

The past 12 months have seen shares make up for a dismal 1994, which saw the FT-SE 100 index of leading shares lose 10.3 per cent. In 1995, the FT-SE 100 advanced by 62.8 points to end the year at 3,689.5, an annual rise of 30.3 per cent. Britain's "feel-good" recovery may not have taken place, but shareholders generally saw the value of their capital investments rocket, and 1995 will probably be remembered as a vintage year. Maybe it's a case of "it's better to travel than to arrive". Time will tell.

Having had their fingers burnt a year ago, equity strategists are playing it safe this time around. Their predictions a year ago ranged from a bearish 2,800 to a bullish 3,750, but most fell short of the mark. Their FT-SE 100 target forecasts for where the index of leading shares will end this year range from a bearish 3,400 to a bullish 4,250.

Ian Harnett, equity strategist at Société Générale Strauss Turnbull, is pleased with himself, having predicted an end-1995 FTSE range of between 3,500 and 3,750. He remains bullish on prospects for UK equities in 1996 and is looking for a further advance to between 4,000 and 4,250 in the coming year. He said: "The risks are very much geared to stronger out-performance. Merger and acquisition activity is going to dominate."

Dr Harnett favours sectors such as housebuilders and some of the main consumer retailers and food retailers, though he is wary about the utility sectors, which could see more bid activity. Dr Harnett said: "This [the market's performance in 1995] isn't a bubble: it's based on fundamentals and it can be sustained."

Stierling is also expected to be weak, but this should spur on international stocks. Inflation is seen picking up to about 3.5 per cent on an underlying basis, while GDP growth is forecast at 2.75 per cent for 1996.

Michael Hughes, managing director of economics and strategy at

Barelays de Zoete Wedd, is relatively cautious on prospects for UK equities in the coming year. BZW has pencilled in an end-1996 FT-SE 100 forecast of 3,750, with a degree of caution built in because 1996 is seen as an election year. Mr Hughes favours sectors with an exposure to economic growth, including building materials, diversified industrials, selected spirits and general retailers, all of which are expected to benefit from a pick-up in consumer spending.

For gilts, Mr Hughes expects the ten-year yield of about 7.5 per cent to rise to about 8.25 per cent, which "would be a shot across the bows", reflecting electoral uncertainty. "Any run-up to the election is theoretically more volatile," he said. "It's a pretty even race between the two main parties."

At UBS, Tim Brown, UK equity strategist, and Bill Martin, chief UK economist, are looking for a FT-SE 100 target of 3,800, GDP growth of 2.5 per cent and inflation rising to about 3.4 per cent by the fourth quarter. Mr Brown expects the UK equity market to be strong in the first half, reflecting an anticipated fall in interest rates and cash in the systems. He added that prospects for UK equities are "nothing to get really excited about, but the trend is upwards."

Mark Tinker, UK strategist at James Capel, has pencilled in a bullish 1996 FT-SE 100 target of 4,000, though he admits there is considerable political uncertainty before the general election.

Mr Tinker said: "Growth will remain solid. You've got the stimulus coming from lower interest rates and continued profit growth. However, politics is the enemy out there waiting to ambush equities." He added that the political concerns are more dangerous for equities than for bonds, with the distinct possibility that a Labour government could raise corporation tax, extend ACT or impose a windfall tax on the likes of privatised utilities.

James Capel is looking for earnings growth to climb from about 13.3 per

cent in 1995 to 15.6 per cent in 1996, though dividend growth is expected to slow from 11.8 per cent in 1995 to 8.75 per cent in 1996. This puts the market on a price earnings ratio of 13.5 times in 1996, compared with 15.4 times in 1995, with the gross dividend yield seen rising from 4.2 per cent in 1995 to 4.57 per cent in 1996.

Mr Tinker said: "The first half of 1996 is going to be nervous for the equity market. There will be a tendency for investors to go big and boring, though there is good value out there in the cyclical."

Mr Knight said 1995's bid activity was relatively sectorally concentrated. Future bids are expected to attract more hurdles from the regulators, with more referrals anticipated because of the adverse political implications on job losses.

Philip Isherwood, UK strategist at Kleinwort Benson, the merchant bank, is looking for a FT-SE 100 target of 3,850. Mr Isherwood expects a spillover in the first four months, driven on the upside by lower interest rates and M&A activity, but offset by "a hell of a lot of downgrades".

Kleinwort has a GDP forecast of 2.3 per cent for the year, with 2.8 per cent anticipated in Q4, which in turn is expected to see bond weakness. Kleinwort is looking for inflation to see RPIX at about 2.7 per cent by the end of the year, with sterling expected to be stable to easier. The Dow Jones, which advanced 32.3 per cent in 1995, is also forecast to continue rising to about 5,600 by the end of the year, though the advance is expected to be first-half led.

Kleinwort anticipates an autumn 1996 general election, which it expects Labour to win. The short-term result of this is seen as delayed investment, but increased M&A activity ahead of anticipated regulatory uncertainty.

Kleinwort forecasts 7.5 per cent dividend growth in 1996, with an anticipated "clean" dividend yield of 4.55 per cent predicted for December 1996, compared with 4.2 per cent for December 1995. Electoral and economic risk is expected to see the market trade on a price earnings multiple of 13.5 times next year, compared with 16.5 times in 1995.

Bob Semple, UK strategist at NatWest Securities, is going for a cautious FT-SE 100 target of 3,700 in what he expects to be a year of two halves. Mr Semple said: "The first quarter and second quarter will be the best period for the market. More bids and more interest rate cuts could drive the market to 3,900 or 4,000 if the bond market remains supportive."

However, he fears that political concerns and a soft landing could see

the bond market lose some of its shine, while recovery for some sectors is still some way away and uncertainty about domestic and overseas economies remains. "A probable Labour general election victory leads us to conclude that investors should be looking to take advantage of any market run in the first half to lock in profits," he added.

Philip Wolstencroft at Merrill Lynch, the Wall Street stockbroker that took over Smith New Court, has a FT-SE 100 target of 3,850 in a year expected to see further industry consolidation and continued M&A activity. Bond yields are expected to slip from 7.5 per cent in 1995 to 7 per cent in 1996, while interest rates are forecast to end 1996 at 5.75 per cent.

Merrill Lynch expects earnings growth to slow but is keen on financials, such as banks and insurance stocks, while consumer cyclical, such as leisure, householders and car retailers, should benefit from a pick-up in spending.

George Hodgson at SBC Warburg has a FT-SE 100 target of 3,750, which implies limited progress. Warburg remains keen on broadly defensive stocks, as well as the consumer goods and financials sectors, but is cautious on industrial areas which may not be out of the woods yet.

Parumore Gordon, which was last year's bear with an end-1995 FT-SE 100 target of 2,800, has decided not to publicise its forecast for 1996.

Paul Walton, equity strategist at Goldman Sachs, the American securities house, has pencilled in a FT-SE 100 target of 3,400. Mr Walton, who has been bullish in the past, has turned bearish and expects equities to be depressed by a slowing economy and profit downgrades, with political risk predicted to further undermine sentiment. Mr Walton is looking for only 1.75 per cent GDP growth and 5 per cent earnings growth, against a consensus of about 12 per cent. Gilts are expected to benefit.

Strategists seem to have most angles covered, but if investors want to be safe, they should look at companies with intrinsic earnings growth, healthy exports, strong balance sheets and high-quality management — if that's not asking too much.

Christine Buckley foresees a multi-utility future

New year 'baby' heralds trend towards linked public services

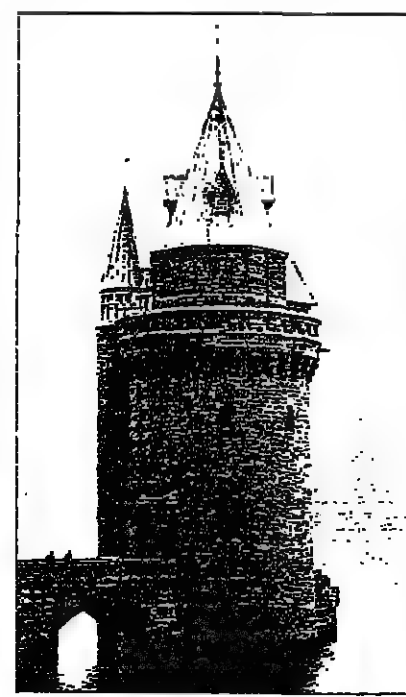
Today's new year babies include United Utilities. Born officially on January 1 from the union of North West Water and Norweth, the regional electricity company, it is Britain's first multi-utility and from now on will provide two essential services to 7 million customers from one corporate base.

The merger of the two companies, which triggered a wave of consumer fears of the implications of one group handling the provision of two utilities, creates one of the country's 50 largest businesses that will achieve annual sales of £2.5 billion. Several hundred jobs are expected to be lost as the integration of the businesses that form United is completed, with cost savings reaching many millions of pounds as duplicated services such as billing and metering are combined. Additionally there are large savings to be made on combining headquarters and personnel resources.

United is the first multi-utility but it will certainly not be the last. Andrew Stone, utilities analyst at Daiwa, says: "There are likely to be other such link-ups. Companies will look at the savings being made and the pressure will be on them to take similar action. The merger of North West and Norweth created an important precedent and opened the gate to other takeovers and multi-utilities."

The Office of Fair Trading is currently scrutinising proposals for the takeover of South Wales Electricity by Welsh Water. Last week, the Director-General of Fair Trading extended his review of the agreed bid before deciding whether to refer it to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. The chances are, however, that he will not refer the bid but insist instead on further ringfencing points to keep the electricity and water businesses operating separately.

London Electricity and Thames Water are in the midst of a strategic review of their businesses, aiming to join forces on operations they have in common. With such a close-fitting customer base they



Tranquillity amid turmoil over water

have working parties looking at merging billing and metering, along with combining databases. A spokeswoman said: "We share so many customers that it makes good sense to see what facilities and operations we can share."

So far, London and Thames have dismissed talks of a full merger but the tie-ups they are investigating promise to be wide-ranging. Both companies have recently spent considerably on establishing new customer service bases outside the capital, with London shifting its operations to Sunderland, Tyne & Wear, and Thames to Swindon. It is possible that when the working parties report this year, this strategy may have to be

rethought. The joint operations also have important implications for a takeover. If a predator moved on London, for example, there would be strong pressure to take both companies if their shared operations were substantial.

Before the current wave of mergers across utilities, the names on everyone's lips were Yorkshire Water and Yorkshire Electricity. The electricity company has signalled strongly that it wishes to remain independent from takeover so a link with its water neighbour would make defensive and cost-saving strength. Like London and Thames the two are also working on areas of co-operation.

However, after the controversy surrounding Yorkshire Water's drought measures and water supply, the electricity company is likely to be very cautious about a full-blown merger.

When Welsh Water announced that Swalec had finally succumbed to the somewhat acrimonious courtship it mounted on the electricity provider, the company said that its way forward was to be a full provider of infrastructure services. It was interested in offering a range of public service activities, including strengthening its road-building operations.

In this strategy Welsh showed that it wants to emulate multi-utilities across the channel, such as Generale des Eaux and Lyonnaise des Eaux, which operate an array of services from water supply to parking wardens.

Multi-utilities will also figure in ever larger numbers as Britain gears up to full competition in the energy market in 1998. With the regional electricity companies increasingly stepping up their activities in gas output, the provision of several public service needs by one company makes competitive logic. The emphasis on fuel price reduction for customers means the companies will have to be ever more inventive to cut costs.

Strategic links and mergers are a natural answer.

Good-bye battery



Seiko Kinetic®. The first and only quartz watch that generates its own energy from your every movement. The perpetual accuracy of quartz — naturally, without a battery. Its tiny powerhouse converts even your slightest movement into electrical impulses. Ecologically sound and ultimately reliable. Seiko Kinetic is so efficient that you only need to wear it for one day to ensure enough energy reserves to last at least a week. Wear it continually and it will never let you down. It's built to last.

Someday all watches will be made this way.

SEIKO KINETIC

RADIO CHOICE

The road to the gallows

The Monday Play: The Nuremberg Trial. Radio 4, 7.20pm.

I shudder to think how much research, microphone time and editing went into Martin Jenkins's and John Theoharis's dramatised documentary. The result triumphantly justifies the effort. This is an all-embracing reconstruction of the 35 days in 1945-46 when 22 top Nazis filled the dock, charged with war crimes. The structure is both highly complex and classically simple. Accusers and accused, defence and defendant, and the tribunal judge, are all played by actors, delivering lines that Peter Goodchild plucked from the transcripts of the trial. Every stage of the tribunal is summarised by expert legal witnesses. We are spared neither the horrors of the Nazi atrocities nor their grisly denouement on the gallows.

Ken Russell's Movie Classics. Classic FM, 7.00pm.

I was expecting the wayward film director to present dialogue scenes from films. How wrong can you be. In his 13-part series, Russell introduces excerpts only from film scores. He does it with authority, as befits a film-maker who has relied heavily on musicians and their talent. Only Russell, I felt, would have been sufficiently knowledgeable to declare that Walton's fugue written for *The First of the Few* was bloodbrother to the same composer's fugue in his *Symphony No 1*, and that Korngold's waltz theme from *The Adventures of Robin Hood* evoked Vienna Woods more than Sherwood Forest.

Peter Daville

RADIO 1

FM Stereo 6.30am Cive Warren 9.00 90 from the Nineties 4.00 UK Top 40 of the Week 7.00 Live from the Paradise 10.00 1995 Out of Hell Nicky Campbell talks to Meathead about his album *Welcome to the Neighbourhood* 12.00-4.00am Wendy Lloyd

RADIO 2

FM Stereo 6.00am Sarah Kennedy, and at 6.15 Pause for Thought 8.05 Wake Up to Wogan, and at 8.15 Pause for Thought 10.00 Joanna Lumley 1.00pm The Comedy Street Story with Roy Hattersley, MP 2.00 Debbie Throver 3.20 Ed Stewart 5.00 Radio 2 — Station of the Year 7.00 Bert Lahr (r) 8.00 Jump, Live and Take 9.00 For Your Eyes Only 10.00 Enchanted Evenings 10.30 The Jamisons 12.05am Digby Fairweather 1.00 Adrian Fingham 3.00 Steve Macken

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am The Breakfast Programme 8.30 The Magazine, and at 10.30 Euronews, 11.00 News, Actuality 11.05 Daily News Update 11.30 Pioneers and Presidents 12.00 Midday with Peter 2.00pm Sport on Five, with Ian Payne. Football: Manchester City v West Ham, Liverpool v Nottingham, Leeds v Blackburn, racing from Cranborne, rugby league and darts 5.00 Sports Report 5.55 The Monday Match Middleborough v Aston Villa, Spurs v Manchester United 10.05 Sport in the News 11.00 Night Spot 11.30 Sports Out 12.05am The Other Side of Midnight 2.05 All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am Best of Bates 7.00 Moe Deejay 10.00 Best of King 12.00 Heavy Robots 3.00 Best of Boyd 5.00 Best of Backburn 6.00 Mike Reid's Pop Quiz 7.00 Sean Bolger 10.00 Gary Jacobs 1.00-6.00am Ian Collins

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air. Rachmaninov (O come, let us worship; Bless the Lord, O my soul, Vespers); Strauss (Aus Italien); Schubert (Piano Trio in C, Op. 99); Saint-Saëns (The Rhapsodies on Breton Songs, Op. 71); 8.05 Gabriel (Buccarati in neomente tuba a 19; Carozzi XVII a 12); Wagner (Bismarck and the Kaiser's Jubilee)

9.00 Morning Collection, with Paul Garmichael Schubert (Impromptu in G flat); Bach (Suite No 1 in C) Beethoven (Triple Concerto)

10.15 New Year's Day Concert. Vienna Philharmonic under Lorin Maazel performs its traditional concert of music by the Strauss family, live from the Golden Hall of the Vienna Musikverein; 10.50 by the beautiful blue mountain. A famous musical meeting in Vienna is re-enacted, and enlivened by an unexpected visitor; 11.15 second part of the Strauss concert

12.30pm Composer of the Week: Edward Elgar (Overture, Wand of Youth Suite No 1; Salut d'Amour; Enigma Variations) (r)

1.30 Ulster Orchestra under Adrian Leaper, Nikolai Dordaniuk, piano Shostakovich (Concerto for piano, trumpet and strings); Beethoven (Symphony No 3 in C, Erlene singolare)

2.30 Record Review, Anthony Burton, Tess Knighton, Michael Oliver and Stephen Johnson choose the best of the year's releases (r)

3.45 Oxfordshire Organs. In the fourth of 36 recitals, Simon

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT 5.00am Newsday 5.30 Andy Kershaw 6.00 Newsday 6.30 Pic of the Week 7.00 News 7.15 Of the Shell 8.00 News 8.10 Words of Faith 8.15 The Greenfield Collection 9.00 News in German 9.15 Anything Goes 9.45 Sport 10.00 Newsday 10.30 55: English 10.45 On the Shelf Peter Pan 11.00 Newsday 11.30 Omnibus 12.00 News 12.05pm Business 12.15 Britain Today 12.30 Ports of Call 1.00 NewsHour 2.00 News 2.05 Outlook 2.30 John Peel 3.00 News in German 3.15 Concert Hall 4.00 News 4.15 The World Today 4.30 News in German 5.00 The Vintage Chart Show 5.30 Business 5.45 Sport 6.00 Newsday 6.30 News in German 7.00 News Summary 7.21 Outlook 7.25 Words of Faith 7.30 Multitrack 8.00 NewsHour 8.00 News 8.05 Business 8.15 Britain Today 9.30 Omnibus 10.00 Newsday 10.30 The World Today 10.45 Sport 11.00 News 11.10 Take Five 11.15 Ed Stewart 11.45 Development 65 Midnight Newsday 12.30am Folk Routes 12.48 Britain Today 1.00 News 1.10 Press Review 1.15 Samira 1.45 Health Matters 2.00 Newsday 2.30 Quote, Unquote 3.00 News 3.15 Sport 3.30 John Peel 4.00 Newsday 4.30 On the Shelf

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Best of Celebrity Choice 6.00 Sarah Lucas 9.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 At the Opera House 2.00pm Christmas Ballet Gaskel 4.00 Rob Cowen's 1996 Show 5.00 Newsday 5.15 The World Today 5.30 Newsday 5.45 Ken Russell's Movie Classics. See Choice 8.00 Evening Concert. All-time favourites 10.00 Robert Bortn 1.00am His Through the Night

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Ruse "I" John 8.00 Richard Skinner 12.00 Graham Dean 4.00pm Nicky Home 7.30 Paul Coyte 10.00 Mark Forest 2.00-4.00am Robin Baris

RADIO 4

Presley plays the Austrian organ, built by Rieger, at Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford

4.30 Jazz. Music and All That Jazz. Mel Hill explores the relationship between jazz vocalists and language in the first of two programmes

5.00 The Music Machine. Jeremy Sumner puts together a time capsule of British music for listeners in 2045

5.15 Festival. The Songbooks. Last Orders. Iain Burnside makes a selection of drinking songs

5.30 British Cities. Brian Boydell explores music-making in Dublin in the 1740s (r)

7.30 Anniversary. The Festival. Claudio Abbado conducts Mahler's Symphony No 9, in the last of the Berlin Philharmonic's three concerts

8.10 Cultural Baggage. Museums begin a 20-part exploration of the history, significance and connotations of 20 cultural phenomena

9.30 Vespers for St Bartholomew. The service as it may have been heard in the Priory Church of St Bartholomew the Great, in the City of London, on the last day of the Apolloe Bartholomew

10.45 The Shellee Show. Jeremy Nicholas introduces a selection of music from the age of 78rpm records, including performances by Victor de Sabata, Solomon and Herbert Janssen

11.30-12.30am Ensemble. Penny Gore introduces the last of three programmes of music by Schumann, Brahms and Herzogenberg

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping (LW only) 6.00 News 6.10 Farming Today 6.15 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Over the Counter. Oliver Walton meets baker Andrew Whitley 6.55 Weather 7.00 News 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 News 7.25, 8.25 Sports News 7.45 Thought for the Day 7.55 Weather 8.40 Harvest of the Cold Months, by Elizabeth David (1/5)

9.00 News 9.05 Start the Week, presented by Melvyn Bragg and Victoria Glendinning. With Jonathan Miller, Marina Warner, Steve Jones and Times columnist Lord Rees-Mogg

10.00-10.30 News. With Great Pleasure (FM only). Jerry Eclair selects her favourite literature (2/6)

10.00 Daily Service (LW only) from St Ann's Church, Manchester

10.15 Children's BBC Radio 4: That's the Name of the Game (LW only)

10.30 Woman's Hour. Jenn Murray introduces a programme from the Victoria and Albert Museum in London to celebrate the relationship between women and textiles

11.30 Hand Shoulder, Soft Touch. The art of giving and teaching massage

12.00 News. You and Yours 12.25pm Who Goes There? Times columnist Jonathan Meades, Claire Rayner and Miles Kingston answer questions on the rich and famous

Chairman, Martin Young 12.35 Weather

1.00 The Late Book. Bill Sheens MacDonald

1.40 The Archers (1.55 Shipping Forecast

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.8-99.3. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.5. LW 158. MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 983, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 158 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; LW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1063, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Gillian Macey, Rosemary Smith and Susan Thomson

Catherine fixed it only too well for Hardy

A questionable benefit of last night's screen version of Thomas Hardy's *Return of the Native* (BBC2) was that it brought to mind an excellent cartoon I once saw. Entitled "The Infinite Variety of Cat Expressions" this cartoon depicted around 20 cat-faces, with descriptions such as "About to pounce", "Eating", "Tired", "Angry", "Happy". The joke was that the faces were identical — save for "Asleep", of course, in which the eyes were lightly closed.

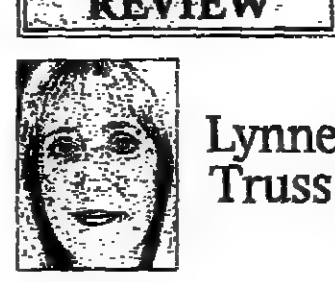
What can this have to do with a classy Screen Two presentation of a great English classic on New Year's Eve? Well, anyone who watched the lovely Catherine Zeta Jones last night in the unlikely role of Eustacia Vye will charitably agree that facial consistency was far her strongest suit. Angry, happy, tired, or about to pounce, Eustacia sustained that fixed china face quite brilliantly. Even when

floating dead (dead!) on a racing stream, Miss Jones tilted that head and those lips to the same lovely angle, yet there was something subtly different. Oh yes! Just like the cat aforementioned, she cleverly closed her eyes.

It was a strange creature, this *Return of the Native*. It was directed by Jack Gold, and produced (I believe) by Hallmark Cards, who once gave us the Emmy-winning western *Lonesome Dove*. But the casting was perverse, the landscape too grand, the adaptation banal, the indoor lighting too bright, the social status and snow-white neck-cloths of the principals more than a bit of a surprise. The biggest mistake was to tell it as Eustacia's story with everyone else incidental, when the key to Hardy is that each character selfishly pursues its own destiny — despite impinging tragically on someone else's.

In short, most things contrived to remove the potential for tragedy. Thus, Mrs Yeobright's exhausting, fatal trek across Egdon Heath was more a short stroll that went wrong; the multiple plunge in the last five minutes was pure comedy; and the most famous scene in the book — Digory Venn and Damon Wildeve dining on the heath at midnight by the light of glow-worms — was excised altogether. In his biography of Hardy, Martin Seymour-Smith calls this "one of the most stupendous, and best loved, scenes in English fiction."

REVIEW



Lynne Truss

to guess half the time what the hell was going on. "What the hell is going on?" I sometimes asked the cast, but alas, they were practising "Inconceivable" at the time. (Or was it "Hiding from Wolves"? Gosh, it's so hard to tell.)

Anyway, from the tide onwards — I, *Graves* — the programme somehow expected us to know the main thrust already. For example, the section on Graves's "Muses"

(real-life women to write poems for) started with an American woman talking about the honour of being "selected", but for what? This was a documentary which required an occasional narrator to clarify the order of things. Graves was seen to leave Majora in 1936, but not to return. His famous consort Laura Riding was described by her biographer as a sexually frank person who suggested "Let's get this all out on the table". Out on the table would have been a good place to start with this story, too.

Meanwhile, the new children's classic drama, *Black Hearts in Battersea* (BBC1) really needed a double-episode to get started. The viewer ought to be made aware, for example, that this is hypothetical history, not real history — otherwise the references to Jacobites alongside mid-19th-century dress are a bit confusing. "To the cause!" people keep saying, and you don't know what they mean.

But the atmosphere is well done, and the unchained boy Simon (William Manners) has all the girly good looks of an Oliver Twist.

I complained before Christmas about the scheduling of the left-over Christmas specials, but it was a stroke of genius to leave the spoof Alan Partridge's *Knowing Me, Knowing You* (BBC2) to Friday December 29, because this is precisely where such a terrible, terrible show would realistically end up. Set in a replica of Partridge's ranch-style Norwich home (don't come round and barge the real one, ho, ho, *Knowing Me, Knowing You* was a disastrous house party for a few close friends: bell-ringers and choirboys, a BBC executive, a lewd transvestite chef, a giant cracker containing a dialysis machine, and busy women in Santa mini-skirts. Only Patrick Moore playing the xylophone was missing.

As usual with the off-colour Partridge (Steve Coogan), the show's real interest was the rapid, gleeful and terrible humiliation of the jumped-up host (to the point of breakdown, if possible). "Please tell me I've got a second series, boss!" Partridge jostled with the BBC exec, unfavourably. A Christian-bell-ringer objected to pornography on television. "What's wrong with masturbation?" asked Partridge. "I don't like it," she said. "Well, don't do it," he snapped back. Meanwhile, Partridge used every opportunity to plug Rover and Booter biscuits, and the viewers held their breath.

What would be the final bombshell here? A fire in the studio? An aborted big number? Well, yes, of course, but that wasn't all. No, Partridge hitting his boss twice in the face with his fist encased in uncooked poultry — few among us, I believe, will have seen that one coming. Happy New Year.

BBC1

7.00am Classical Music Animations. Tchaikovsky's music accompanies *The Sleeping Beauty* (30/03/95) 7.25 Favourite Songs with the voice of Roger Daltrey (30/03/95) 7.30 Joshua Jones (1/04/96)

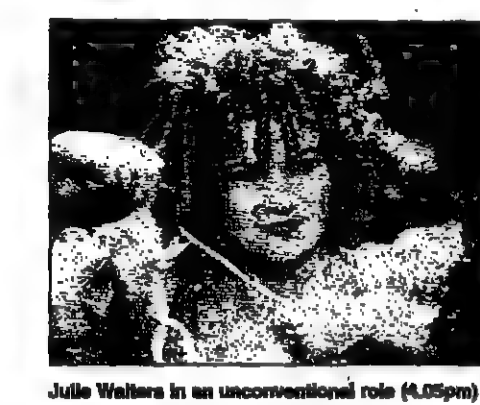
8.00 Playdays (8/01/96) 8.20 Joe 90 (8/01/96) 8.45 Playdays (8/01/96) 8.55 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (8/01/96) 9.30 Stone Protectors (5/02/96) 9.55 Blue Peter (1/04/96)

10.25 FILM: *The Princess and the Goblin* (1991). Animation (s) (8/01/96)

11.45 FILM: *Bugsy Malone* (1976) starring Scott Baio and Jodie Foster. Musical spoof of old gangster movies in which a cast made up entirely of children sing and dance in a way around Prohibition-era sets, firing whipped cream from toy guns. Directed by Alan Parker (1/04/96)

1.15 News and weather (7/01/96) 1.25 Neighbours (5/01/96) 1.45 EastEnders (1/04/96)

2.40 FILM: *Suburban Commando* (1991). Comedy starring Hulk Hogan, directed by Burt Kennedy (1/04/96)



Julie Walters in an unconventional role (4.05pm)

4.05 FILM: *Roald Dahl's Little Red Riding Hood*. (Ceefax) (s) (8/01/96)

4.30 FILM: *News, regional news and weather* (4/01/96)

5.15 Neighbours (1/04/96) 5.35 Neighbours (1/04/96)

5.55 FILM: *Never Say Never Again* (1983). Tongue-in-cheek James Bond adventure starring Sean Connery, directed by Irvin Kershner (30/03/95)

8.00 EastEnders. Pat tries to mend fences with Roy but Ricky introduces a big problem; Phil sees a ghost from the past; and Robbie tries his hand at fishing. (Ceefax) (5/01/96)

8.30 FILM: *Goodnight Sweetheart*. Third series of the time-travel sitcom starring Nicholas Lyndhurst, Dervla Kirwan and Michelle Holmes. (Ceefax) (s) (8/01/96)

9.00 FILM: *The Peacock Spring*. (Ceefax) (s) (8/01/96)

10.25 News, regional news and weather (3/01/96)

10.45 Match of the Day. Tony Gubba, Trevor Brooking and Gary Lineker introduce highlights of today's top Premiership games, including Liverpool v Nottingham Forest; Tottenham Hotspur v Manchester United; and Middlesbrough's home clash with Aston Villa (30/03/95)

11.25 The Rolling Stones: *Voodoo Lounge Live*. The Stones, recorded in Miami during their 1995 world tour without Bill Wyman (20/03/95)

1.10am FILM: *Carry On Doctor* (1968). Part of the Carry On Christmas season, starring Frankie Howerd, Kenneth Williams, Jim Dale, Barbara Windsor, Shirley Jones and Charles Hawtrey. Yet another irreverent-laden adventure, this time with a medical twist, and particularly rich in the interplay between snooty surgeon Williams and the staff. Directed by Gerald Thomas (4/03/95)

2.40 Weather (7/01/96)

BBC2

7.15 FILM: *The Square Peg* (1958, b/w) starring Norman Wisdom, Honor Blackman, Hattie Jacques, Brian Worth and Terence Alexander. A man drafted into the Army finds himself accidentally behind enemy lines. Directed by John Paddy Carstairs (4/01/96)

8.45 FILM: *A Day at the Races* (1937, b/w). Classic comedy with the Marx Brothers, directed by Sam Wood (30/03/95)

10.30am The Voyage of Charles Darwin. The last episode (8/01/96)

12.30pm Sport: *The World Orchestra For Peace*. A concert of the celebrations for the 50th anniversary of the United Nations (5/01/96)

1.30 1996 World Professional Darts Championship. First-round action from the Lakeside Country Club at Frinton Green, Surrey (5/01/96)

4.15 Bid Sunday Special (7/01/96)

4.50 *Costume Mania*. A tour of the biggest, best and highest rollercoasters in the world (21/03/95)

5.40 *Pavarotti and Domingo at the Met*. Luciano Pavarotti and Placido Domingo, under the baton of James Levine in a double-bill from New York's Metropolitan Opera (21/03/95)

8.00 *Backtrack*. This is Now. Dusty Springfield narrates a documentary profile (7/01/96)

8.30 Another Foot in the Past (1/04/96)



Elvis Presley dies on junk food (9.00pm)

9.00 FILM: *The Burger and the King*. (Ceefax) (1/04/96)

10.00 FILM: *Grand Canyon* (1991) starring Danny Glover, Kevin Kline and Steve Martin. A drama about an unlikely friendship between two Los Angeles men. It develops after the poor one (Glover) saves the rich one (Kline) when he is attacked by a black gang; the rich one returns the favour by finding the poor one a girlfriend. The relationship illustrates the social divisions in urban life. Martin's character is said to be a satirical portrait of a well-known producer of violent action films and a would-be philosopher. Directed by Lawrence Kasdan (1/01/96)

12.10am 1996 World Professional Darts Championship. Highlights from tonight's five-set first-round matches, introduced by Dougie Donnelly (3/01/96)

1.00 FILM: *The Days*. Compelling portrait of the relationship between two artists in modern China. Both Dong and Chun teach at the Beijing Art School. Starring Yu Hong, Liu Xiaodong, Lou Ye, Wang Xiaoshui (7/01/96)

2.25 Weather (6/01/96)

Video Plus+ and the Video Plus+ Centre. The numbers rated to each TV programme being the Video Plus+ numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder to watch a particular programme. For more details on Video Plus+, see the Video Plus+ Centre. For more details on Video Plus+, see the Video Plus+ Centre. For more details on Video Plus+, see the Video Plus+ Centre.

For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday

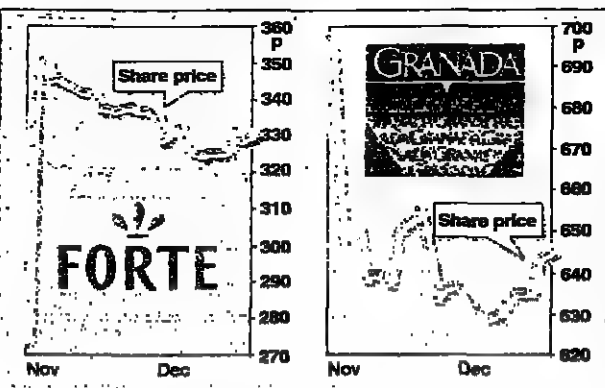
SKY ONE

7.00am Do Not Show (2/01/96) 7.15am John Peel (2/01/96) 7.30am John Peel (2/01/96) 7.45am John Peel (2/01/96) 8.00am John Peel (2/01/96) 8.15am John Peel (2/01/96) 8.30am John Peel (2/01/96) 8.45am John Peel (2/01/96) 9.00am John Peel (2/01/96) 9.15am John Peel (2/01/96) 9.30am John Peel (2/01/96) 9.45am John Peel (2/01/96) 10.00am John Peel (2/01/96) 10.15am John Peel (2/01/96) 10.30am John Peel (2/01/96) 10.45am John Peel (2/01/96) 11.00am John Peel (2/01/96) 11.15am John Peel (2/01/96) 11.30am John Peel (2/01/96) 11.45am John Peel (2/01/96) 12.00am John Peel (2/01/96) 12.15am John Peel (2/01/96) 12.30am John Peel (2/01/96) 12.45am John Peel (2/01/96) 1.00am John Peel (2/01/96) 1.15am John Peel (2/01/96) 1.30am John Peel (2/01/96) 1.45am John Peel (2/01/96) 2.00am John Peel (2/01/96) 2.15am John Peel (2/01/96) 2.30am John Peel (2/01/96) 2.45am John Peel (2/01/96) 3.00am John Peel (2/01/96) 3.15am John Peel (2/01/96) 3.30am John Peel (2/01/96) 3.45am John Peel (2/01/96) 4.00am John Peel (2/01/96) 4.15am John Peel (2/01/96) 4.30am John Peel (2/01/96) 4.45am John Peel (2/01/96) 5.00am John Peel (2/01/96) 5.15am John Peel (2/01/96) 5.30am John Peel (2/01/96) 5.45am John Peel (2/01/96) 6.00am John Peel (2/01/96) 6.15am John Peel (2/01/96) 6.30am John Peel (2/01/96) 6.45am John Peel (2/01/96) 7.00am John Peel (2/01/96)

NEWS SKY NEWS

News on the hour. 6.00am News (5/01/96) 6.30am News (5/01/96) 7.00am News (5/01/96) 7.30am News (5/01/96) 8.00am News (5/01/96) 8.30am News (5/01/96) 9.00am News (5/01/96) 9.30am News (5/01/96) 10.00am News (5/01/96) 10.30am News (5/01/96) 11.00am News (5/01/96) 11.30am News (5/01/96) 12.00am News (5/01/96) 12.30am News (5/01/96) 1.00am News (5/01/96) 1.30am News (5/01/96) 2.00am News (5/01/96) 2.30am News (5/01/96) 3.00am News (5/01/96) 3.30am News (5/01/96) 4.00am News (5/01/96) 4.30am News (5/01/96) 5.00am News (5/01/96) 5.30am News (5/01/96) 6.00am News (5/01/96) 6.30am News (5/01/96) 7.00am News (5/01/96) 7.30am News (5/01/96) 8.00am News (5/01/96) 8.30am News (5/01/96) 9.00am News (5/01/96) 9.30am News (5/01/96) 10.00am News (5/01/96) 10.30am News (5/01/96) 11.00am News (5/01/96) 11.30am News (5/01/96) 12.00am News (5/01/96) 12.30am News (5/01/96) 1.00am News (5/01/96) 1.30am News (5/01/96) 2.00am News (5/01/96) 2.30am News (5/01/96) 3.00am News (5/01/96) 3.30am News (5/01/96) 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Forte pledges £500m special payout to ward off Granada



By ERIC REGULY

FORTE is to publish a defence document tomorrow that will attempt to win investor loyalty with about £500 million in special payouts, a dividend rise and a promise that the company, shed of its lacklustre restaurants, is on the verge of strong growth.

The document will mark the last time that Forte, under takeover threat from Granada, can present new information to shareholders. Granada will have until January 9 to revise its hostile bid, whose shares and cash option is now valued at £3.2 billion.

Forte would not say yesterday how it would disperse the £500 million. Options include a share buyback or the payment of a one-off

dividend. Both methods were used effectively in 1995 by several water and electricity companies. Of the two, a buy-back is more likely because it would boost earnings per share by shrinking the equity base. A buy-back also presents fewer tax complexities than the payment of a special dividend.

The buyout would be funded through the sale of assets, notably the proposed sale of its motorway services stations and Happy Eater and Little Chef restaurants to Whitbread for £1.05 billion. Forte recently sold its Travelodge budget hotel chain in the US for £114 million and Griersons, its wine and spirits wholesaler, for £22.7 million.

Increasing the regular dividend is a virtual certainty. Forte reduced its dividend from 9.91p

to 7.5p in 1993, when the recession made it difficult to fill hotel rooms, especially at the luxury end of the market.

Now that the hotel sector is turning around, profits are on the rise and Forte management thinks the company is back in position to pay higher dividends. Last week, Forte said it expected profits before tax and exceptional items of £190 million in the year to the end of January, up £5 million from its previous forecast. In its last financial year, Forte earned £127 million.

The final defence document is expected to read, in effect, as a prospectus for a new hotel company. It will contain a detailed breakdown of operations in the various chains, ranging from the international Meridien hotels to the

British Travelodge, plus a longer-range profit outlook. Forte has said that both room rates and occupancies have climbed substantially since the beginning of December and are likely to keep climbing. The company will cite recent independent hotel studies to back the claim.

The City expects Granada to raise its bid by about 10 per cent next week, to £3.6 billion or so. The cash and shares alternative is currently valued at 325p, while the all-cash option is worth 321.7p.

Granada, in a move designed to build confidence with its shareholders, may also announce that it has found buyers for Forte's 68 per cent interest in the Savoy Hotel group, several other "trophy" hotels and its own motorway services sites.

Tadpole chief's 74% rise

By OUR CITY STAFF

THE highest paid director of Tadpole Technology, the beleaguered computer maker, received a 74 per cent salary increase in the last financial year.

The company's annual report discloses that the unnamed director, believed to be George Grey, chief executive, was paid £230,592 in the year to September 30, up from £126,885 previously.

The report also reveals that Geoff Bury, who resigned as head of Tadpole's business in the United States, received compensation of £116,000 for loss of office.

In the same year, the company incurred losses of £9.95 million before tax, far greater than expected, and compared with losses of only £1.3 million in the previous year.

Over the past 12 months, Tadpole shares have collapsed to 77p, from 376p, via an all-time low of 38p.

Union warns of 20,000 bank job losses this year

By PHILIP PANGALOS

THE banking and finance industry faces tens of thousands of job losses in the coming year, according to a stark new year warning from the country's main banking and finance union.

In spite of an expectation of multi-billion pound profits for the banking sector this year, the Banking Insurance and Finance Union (Bifu) gives warning that 20,000 more jobs could go in an industry already ravaged by the loss of 120,000 jobs in the past six years.

The union's latest warning comes in the wake of gloomy comments from a number of leading figures in the banking industry, some of whom read-

ily admit that one in five workers could lose their jobs in the next few years as the industry undergoes a wholesale rationalisation.

Banking may have once been considered a job for life but job insecurity is now a feature of the finance industry, with further threats likely in an increasingly competitive industry, especially as relatively old-fashioned retail banking technology is superseded in the UK.

Last spring, Sir Brian Pitman, chief executive of Lloyds Bank, estimated that a further 75,000 jobs would go, in addition to the 90,000 lost since 1989. At its peak, the banking industry employed 460,000 people, since when 3,000 bank and building society branches have closed.

Along with other industry chiefs, Sir Brian has long said that there were too many jobs and branches, though he extended his warning to include other areas such as insurance, which is predicted to experience more of the type of cost-cutting practised by the banks for years.

A recent report by Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, estimated that 98,000 job losses would occur in the ten largest banks by the year 2000. The broker's estimate reflects an improvement in the efficiency of the leading banks similar in scale to the large-scale job losses in the manu-

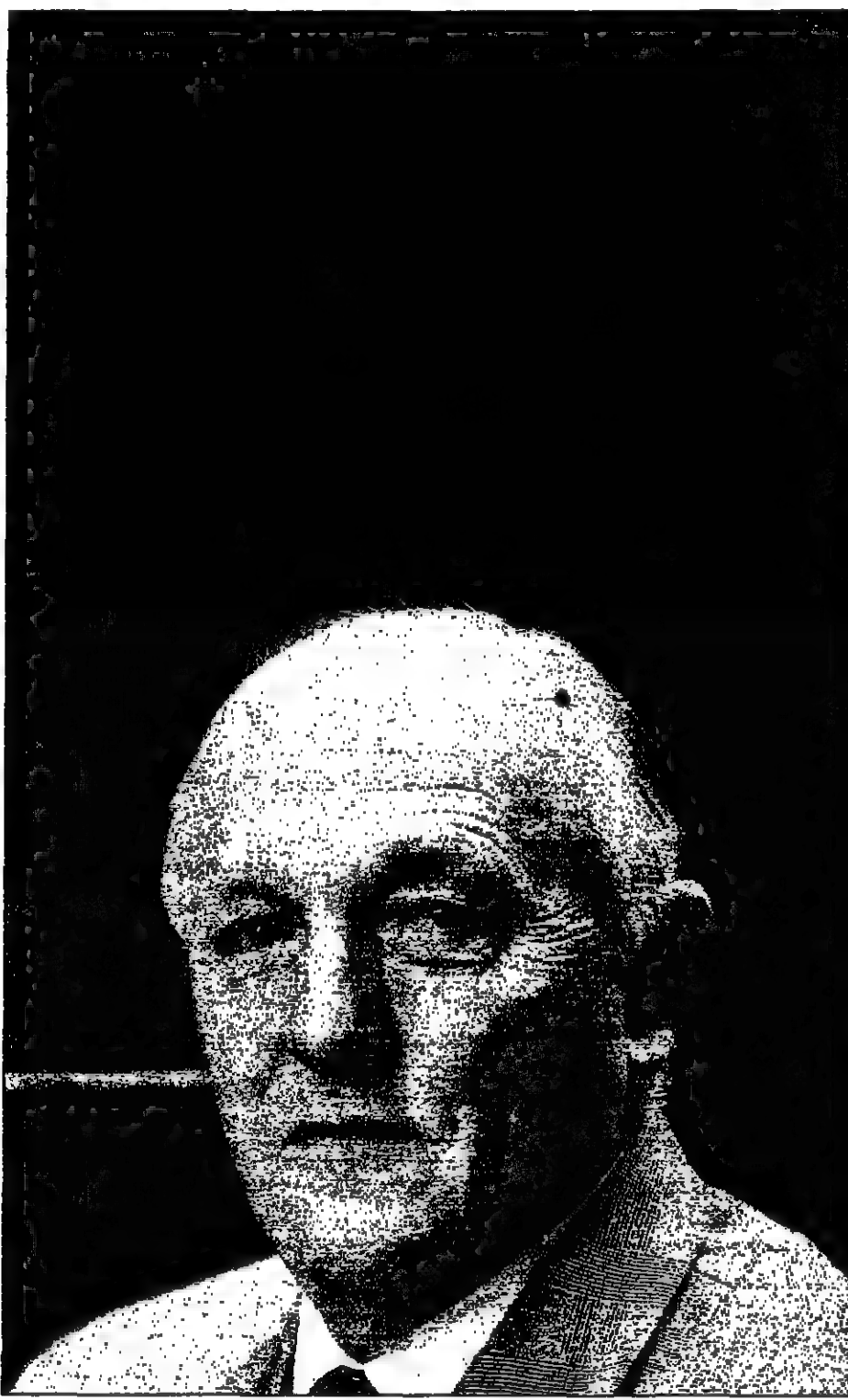
facturing industry during the early 1980s.

Ed Sweeney, Bifu's new general secretary, said: "There is still no 'feel-good' factor in finance. In spite of expected profits of more than £7 billion, the major clearers still seem intent on cutting staff and providing the customer with a poorer service. Our clear message to customers is: don't blame the staff for what's going wrong — blame the people at the top."

Mr Sweeney said that nearly 3,000 high street branches have closed in the last five years, while surveys still show bank customers are extremely critical of the service they are getting and rural communities are losing local branches.

Bifu says banks where big job losses are feared include NatWest, Midland and the Royal Bank of Scotland. The union fears large merger-inspired redundancies among banks, such as Lloyds-TSB, and in the building society sector, where the number of societies has halved in the last ten years.

With a Private Member's Bill to merge Lloyds and TSB banks, necessary to transfer customer accounts into the new bank, likely to reach Parliament this year, Mr Sweeney said: "We will be lobbying MPs hard to oppose the Bill if it means more job losses and a worse choice for customers."



Sir Ronald Hampel, chairman of ICI, today issues a confident new year message

Outlook bright, says ICI chief

By MARTIN BARROW

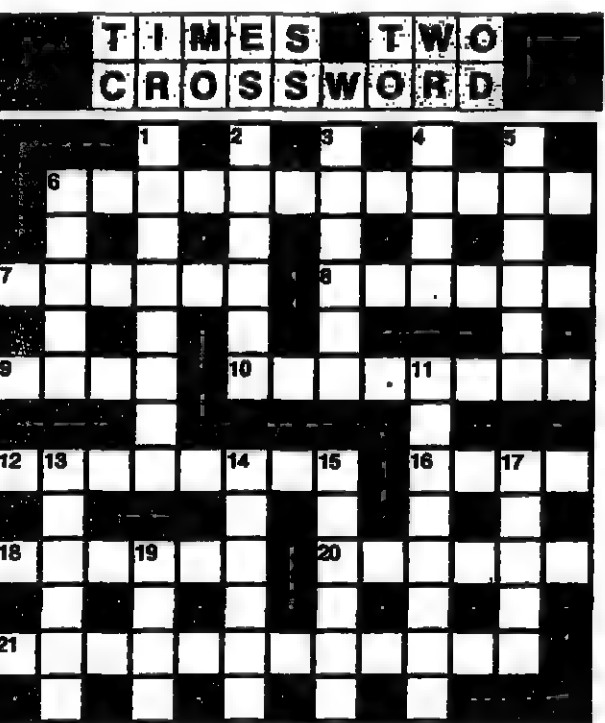
ICI, the chemicals manufacturer that is regarded as a bellwether of British industry, enters 1996 in its most confident mood since the onset of recession at the turn of this decade.

Sir Ronald Hampel, chairman of ICI, said in his new year message, that although the pace of growth had slowed, the fundamental conditions for a sustained improvement in business performance were in place all around the world, with low inflation and reasonable interest rates as well as continued growth.

Sir Ronald said: "There are no easy rides in the face of worldwide pressures, but resolute managements, with advanced and effective products and thorough control of quality and cost, have the opportunity to prove their worth and produce good returns for shareholders."

The UK was a highly competitive place in which to manufacture, perhaps more so than at any time in the last 50 years, he said. "As a result of actions taken over recent years, I believe that the major British companies, such as ICI, are in good shape to take on the world," he added.

The City appears to share Sir Ronald's optimistic outlook for ICI. Analysts at Merrill Lynch are forecasting a sharp rise in pre-tax profits from £408 million to £970 million for the year just ended, a level not seen since 1990 when profits were £936 million. This year, profits are expected to exceed £1 billion for the first time.



No 666

- ACROSS**
- Intruder warning (7,5)
 - For wearing by men and women (6)
 - Upbraid, scold (6)
 - Pilot of Ark (4)
 - Violent reprimandations (8)
 - Presentation, conferment (8)
 - Strengthening plate; seek indirectly (4)
 - Thick nautical cable (6)
 - Multitude (6)
 - Pursue several options (4,3,5)
- DOWN**
- Senior officer (*slang*) (5,3)
 - Life-prolonging draught (6)
 - Language of Middle East (6)
 - Aspersions, stigma (4)
 - Reptile satellite; Wordsworth's *wretched* blown (6)
 - Minstrel instrument (5)
 - A sneak (8)
 - Make possible (6)
 - Fit; a dignitary (6)
 - Explode; forgive (3,3)
 - Church council (5)
 - Underworld river (4)

SOLUTION TO No 665
ACROSS: 1 Howls 4 Britain 8 Cargoes 9 Valet 10 Ebony 11 Dainty 13 Diktat 15 Philip 18 Kaftan 20 Backs 22 Oates 23 Prunella 24 Decency 25 Parry
DOWN: 1 Hacienda 2 Warlock 3 Stony 4 Beside 5 Inveigh 6 Allot 7 Note 12 Apostasy 14 Artisan 16 Lacquer 17 Snappy 19 Antic 20 Blimp 21 Wood

SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO NEW YEAR JUMBO 1996
ACROSS: 1 The Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood 15 Asp 16 Bird's nest soup 17 Strapless 18 Scornful 19 Loveliness 20 Drachma 22 Soap opera 23 Stalag 24 Square cuts 27 Overcharges 28 Easdown 30 Hereto 31 Louis 34 Numerical 36 Moratoria 38 Word of mouth 39 Brown 41 Foil 42 Epee 44 Tilt 45 Plan 46 Isile 47 Cheerlessly 49 Briquette 51 Sport check 53 Taloned 55 Tissue 57 Cream tea 58 Disgraceful 61 Dead ringer 62 Fences 63 Leastwise 66 Reprove 67 Frequented 68 Artefact 70 Arresting 71 Bellows-mender 72 Sin 73 Happy New Year to all our solvers
DOWN: 1 Transistors 2 Espionage 3 Robinson Crusoe 4 Re-route 5 Push 6 Alehouses 7 Literature 8 Tropical cyclone 9 Bo-Peep 10 Oasis 11 Herodias 12 Replacements 13 Open house 14 Dispassionately 21 Gargantuan 25 Quilim 26 Oral 28 Assimilate 31 Arbitrator 33 Lorelei 35 Bite on the bullet 40 Niche 41 Freakishly 38 With bated breath 39 Bite on the bullet 40 Niche 41 Freakishly 43 Wells Cathedral 48 Lugubriously 50 Eerie 51 Stab 52 Chattanooga 54 Dulcet tones 56 Snapper-up 58 Dispersal 59 Fricassee 60 Anserine 64 Abrades 65 Jerboa 67 Figgy 69 Peru

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Political worries to haunt market

By OUR CITY STAFF

THE shock defection to the Liberal Democrats of Emma Nicholson, Tory MP for West Devon and Torridge, has further dented the Government's already slim majority. It will also frighten a UK stock market already jittery at the prospect of a general election coming "sooner rather than later".

Last year may be remembered as a vintage one for the UK market. After a surprisingly healthy 20.3 per cent jump for the FT-SE 100 index in 1995 — it enjoyed an overall advance of 623.8 points as the index ended the year at 3,689.3 — leading equity strategists are cautious about prospects

for 1996. A fading "feel-good" factor is now offset by heightened political uncertainty. Their forecasts for where the index of leading shares will end 1996 range from a bearish 3,400 to a bullish 4,250.

Market-watchers are concerned that a combination of political uncertainty, slower growth in corporate profits and the possibility of economic instability overseas, particularly in the US, could undermine some of the anticipated positive factors such as an expected modest pick-up in consumer spending.

City forecasts, page 34

Bookings flat for summer breaks

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

HIGH street sales and the weather are being blamed for a lacklustre start to post-Christmas bookings for summer package holidays, despite discounts of up to 15 per cent.

The disappointing start to the industry's most important trading period comes as tour operators are recovering from one of the toughest summer seasons on record.

Thomas Cook, the UK's third largest travel agent, estimates the industry in general has seen a fall in trade of between 30 and 40 per cent on last year, said Richard Grummitt, a spokesman. "I am not convinced that there

will be a shortage of holidays this year. Some in the industry are spreading the message that if they do not book now they will not be able to go abroad on holiday come the summer. I believe that is just hype. You are unlikely to secure a booking for a popular resort if you leave it too late, but there will still be plenty of holidays left."

Russell Amerasekera, a spokesman for Going Places, said: "The last few days have been a mixed bag, some areas in the North of England have sold strongly but in the South it's been patchy. It's still early days."

Lapse of agreement allows client free-for-all

Saatchi battle set to resume

By MARTIN BARROW



Maurice Saatchi: free to pitch

HOSTILITIES between Cordiant, the former Saatchi & Saatchi advertising agency, and the new agency set up by Maurice and Charles Saatchi are set to intensify this week.

A legal agreement preventing M&C Saatchi, the brothers' new agency, poaching clients and staff from Cordiant, lapsed yesterday. This leaves the way open for Maurice and Charles to pitch head-to-head for their former company's clients and to renew contact with account executives still working for Cordiant.

M&C Saatchi secured business worth about £300 million a year since it was established last January, and lured from Cordiant a number of big clients, including Mirror Group, British Airways and Dixons, before poaching was stopped. Most of M&C Saatchi's 180 employees, based mainly in London but with offices in New York and Hong Kong, were recruited from Cordiant before the shutters went up. The end of the agreement will also allow the

brothers to be more open about their relationship with the Conservative Party. Officially, the Tories are still represented by Cordiant, to whom they remain financially indebted since the last general election. But Maurice and Charles have been advising the Tories on a personal and informal basis, and were behind the *Which Country...Our Country* open letter from John Major published in Sunday newspapers.

In spite of M&C's early successes, the companies remain mismatched, with Cordiant's billings of £4 billion confirming its status as a colossus of the advertising industry. The defection of some clients and staff to M&C initially raised questions about Cordiant's long-term prospects. But the appointment of Jennifer Laing to head Saatchi & Saatchi UK and a £127 million one-for-one rights issue has steadied the ship, and will make Cordiant a much tougher nut to crack.

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■ FILM

From a sublime small-scale black and white masterpiece like *Brief Encounter*...



■ FILM

...to the ridiculous dross of a movie like *Judge Dredd*. British cinema celebrates its centenary

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ THEATRE

Stanislavski, Artaud and Brecht: all have a voice in Peter Brook's treatment of *Hamlet*



■ TOMORROW

Hollywood actor Morgan Freeman on why he jumped at the chance to star in the gruesome new film, *Seven*

God save our gracious screen

British film enters its second century under-achieving, under fire — and under orders from Geoff Brown not to succumb to dross

Just when you were getting thoroughly tired of hearing about cinema's centenary, the business starts all over again. The bulk of the world may have picked 1995 as the year for all the hoopla, but Britain has chosen 1996, because it was only during 1996 that cinema emerged in this country as a regular public attraction.

On February 21 of that year, a selection of the Lumière brothers' films appeared at the Regent Street Polytechnic. The following month the show transferred to the Empire Theatre, Leicester Square, a building long since swallowed up by the glitzy cinema currently showing *The American President*, *Apollo 13* and *Babe* (none of them, predictably, a British film).

Compared to the celebrations organised by the French, the British centenary manifestations, co-ordinated either by the British Film Institute or the industry-led body Cinema 100, are particularly low on panache and patriotic glee. You could not move in Paris last year for exhibitions and film series trumpeting French cinema and its proud pioneers. But here, the milestones of Britain's own early heroes like Birt Acres and Robert Paul have passed by almost unnoticed, and the promised programme of touring shows featuring live actors and cinema clips, education packs for school children and a Museum of London exhibition about the city as reflected in film is scarcely designed to keep the flag flying merrily.

The French, of course, could bang their drum loudly because cultural bodies have been securely backed by government funds. The French Government sees that French films of the past, present and future matter, as a source of both revenue and national pride. Our own Government's attitude to cinema and the film industry varies month by month from token appreciation to obstinate lack of interest.

Back in October, industry spokesmen were all smiles after the news that lottery funds would be channelled each year through the Arts Council into the production of several films budgeted at about £5 million each. This, the argument went, would allow young directors to stay in Britain for their second or third films, rather than dash off at the first opportunity to lock muscles with Sylvester Stallone.

November, however, ended with cries of outrage over the Government's penny-pinching pull-out from Eurimages, the EC fund that had supported *Land and Freedom*, *The Young Poisoner's Handbook* and more than 50 other co-productions since Britain joined the scheme in 1993. The Irish Film Board's chief executive Rod Staddon vented his fury in the trade paper, *Screen International*: "This is an action of unparalleled meanness and madness. It not only damages the



Celia Johnson and Trevor Howard in *Brief Encounter*, "a small-scale masterpiece which continues to speak to audiences worldwide"

prospects of UK producers but also English-language cinema in Europe as a whole."

But in some ways British cinema has always been in a parlous state, no matter what meanness, madness, indifference or encouragement has been displayed by the government in power. François Truffaut famously suggested that there was "a certain incompatibility between the terms 'cinema' and 'Britain'". He spoke sweepingly and rudely, but enough uncomfortable truth remains to give one pause for thought, especially in the light of our timid centenary celebrations.

British cinema history began brightly enough. We had the inventors. In the early years we developed trick processes, and led the world in training the camera on the world around us. Britain fell back when films grew longer and began telling complex stories. American films had the dynamic thrust: ours just had pretty scenery and flocks of sheep.

By the late 1920s young sparks like Hitchcock and Asquith were showing a new degree of visual sophistication. But such gains were lost with the coming of sound, which allowed our literary and theatrical traditions to dominate, and strengthened the power of American movies exerted over audiences. Why bother about Gracie Fields when you could dance away the night with Fred Astaire?

From the 1930s on British film became wedded to actors and words. Sometimes the marriage was happy,

as with Olivier's *Henry V* or, on a different level, the music-hall antics of a Will Hay or George Formby. But there has been too much prose, too little poetry, too little to excite the visual eye or prick the heart and the British director who thinks fluently in images — such as Powell, Mackendrick, Reed, Lean, Greenaway or Jarman — remains very much the exception.

Britain's younger school of direc-

In some ways British cinema has always been in a parlous state

tors certainly take Truffaut's line. Twentieth-century figures such as Danny Cannon and Paul Anderson were born into the era of *Star Wars*. Not for them any routine homage to British documentary, Ealing comedy, kitchen sink realism or the other accepted highlights of our film culture. Cinema to them means Hollywood, popcorn and slam-bang action; and after one feature each, grafting American excitement on to the British urban scene, they have both run to Hollywood's arms to

make action fantasies based on comic strips or video games. If their fortunes hold up, they may never have to look for a pay packet or create a recognisable human being again.

Yet British cinema, flawed as acknowledged, is still worth celebrating, and certainly worth fighting for. When our industry is buoyed by confidence and in touch with ordinary people's emotions we can make a small-scale masterpiece like *Brief Encounter*, a film which, for all its 1940s middle-class trappings, continues to speak to audiences worldwide.

But if the industry loses its national identity and simply services American projects, the future will only bring dross like *Judge Dredd*, the comic-strip nightmare shot by Danny Cannon at Shepperton.

Even a great talent like Hitchcock loses individuality when he moves to Hollywood, away from his roots. Born to a north London greengrocer, he was able to make thrillers alive with quirky observations of urban life. *Saboteur*, made in 1936, glories in the atmosphere of London street markets, suburban cinemas, the Lord Mayor's Show, and an Islington bird shop (where a bomb-maker roots). An American film like *North by Northwest* has a smoother technical surface than the thrillers of the 1930s, but Hitchcock picks the most obvious locations, like the United Nations and the carved worthies of Mount Rushmore. In Britain he was an insider; in America he remained a tourist.

So during this centenary year, with the industry continuing to bemoan and bleat, usually about the need for tax incentives, we should clearly keep in mind what kind of cinema we really want to promote. With Ridley and Tony Scott now running Shepperton Studios and the new facility at Leavesden Aerodrome, a possible site of future films from Spielberg and George Lucas, American movies featuring British expertise will continue to be made. They are good for employment, but they hardly constitute an indigenous film industry; and they must be balanced by medium-budget movies with a British stamp.

Sadly, art-house ventures of the Jarman or Greenaway kind seem to be a dying breed at the moment, unless they happen to be written by Jane Austen. But *Shallow Grave*, the one British film of 1995 to earn a place in the box-office Top 20 tabulated by *Screen International* (it was No 18), shows that audiences will go to see local product other than *Four Weddings and a Funeral*. Their numbers might increase further if exhibitors and distributors gave British films greater exposure.

One thing is clear: there is no room anywhere for fodder, for cramped TV-style productions or botched little comedy thrillers like *The Steel*, the worst British film to crawl into the light last year. If we want to celebrate 100 more years of cinema — British cinema — in 2096, we must husband our resources very carefully.

Peter Brook's *Hamlet* draws upon some of the century's greatest dramatic theorists, Andy Lavender reports

What noble minds are here o'erhauled

In a typical mixture of seriousness and panache, Peter Brook's latest project is one of his most ambitious. *Qui Est La* is Brook's engagement with Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. It is an immediately enticing venture for, as Brook suggests, when the actors from his Paris-based Centre International de Créations Théâtrales turn to the best-known play in the world, "this evokes all sorts of immediate questions of theatre". In addressing them he has called upon some esteemed thinkers: the show is filtered through the writings of six major figures in world drama.

"We actually present a sort of mosaic," Brook says, "which is a work on fragments of *Hamlet* which is constantly modified by voices coming from the past." Five of these belong to directors and theorists from the first half of the century. There are the Russians Stanislavski and Meyerhold; the former the founder of naturalistic acting, whose System is still the basis of most actor training today; the latter a radical director who fell victim to Stalin's purges.

"Meyerhold is not only the greatest genius in the theatre," Brook says, "but the one authentic martyr in the Socratic sense, in that he was destroyed by his society because he questioned it too deeply."

There is the French writer and director Antonin Artaud, whose calls for a "primal" theatre have stirred many hearts. There is Bertolt Brecht, who bestrides the 20th century as its most provocative playwright, director and theorist. And there is the English director and designer Edward Gordon Craig, in Brook's estimation "perhaps the most neglected of all the great figures in the theatre".

These, then, are the shadows at Brook's elbow, joined by a still dumber luminary. In acknowledging the influence of oriental theatre on each of his chosen directors, Brook has gone back to the first written source, a book called *The Secret of Noh* by the Noh master Zeami. The result is nothing less than an exploration of meaning and technique in the theatre.

Qui Est La opened recently

at the Bouffes du Nord, Brook's magnificently dilapidated Parisian theatre. On a bare wooden platform, with only a few simple black chairs, the seven actors move seamlessly between scenes from the play and a discussion of how they might best be presented. The show's title comes from the first line of Shakespeare's text. Brook gives it to David Bennett, who plays Horatio and enjoys a moment of theatrical fun. He bounds onto the stage, looks broadly about and demands, "Who is there?" Yoshi Oida shakes his head in amused disapproval. Bennett enters again, this time with a somersault: more spectacularly wrong. The third time, to hollow knocks provided by Mahmoud Tabriz-Zadeh, the lone musician, Bennett slowly turns, steps onto the platform, edges under an imaginary rampart and quietly asks his question. The audience holds its breath.

The show thrives on these glimpses, as if it constantly catches the play on the run. Its fragments are spliced with discourses on the nature of passion, on the difference be-



Noh quarter: Brook has co-opted medieval Japanese theatre

tween the abstract and the concrete, and on similarly engaging matters, which, in a two-hour production, leave somewhat less room for the play itself. "In rehearsal and privately one uses very severe words in relation to Shakespeare," Brook says. "On the one hand, one admires him

more than any other author, and on the other, one doesn't hesitate to say, 'This is unbelievably boring, let's cut it.' True to his word, Brook has excised the entire last act of *Hamlet*, arguing that some of the most vital themes of the play are expressed in the graveyard scene which pre-

cedes it. In his version, a notably serene Ophelia delivers her "mad" speeches during this section. The whole deconstruction is calm, focused and original.

There are difficulties for English spectators. If you do not speak French, you will not follow the discussions about theatrical possibilities, for this is a text-heavy show. Thankfully, Brook is contemplating an English production.

Once or twice, too, when the actors gather round to share words of wisdom, the reverence appropriate to a masterclass is nearly cloying. And there is a further danger — that the show raids the work of hugely different practitioners to promote the idea of a "timeless" theatre?

"For years, everything I have done has been to strip away from any work any forms of cultural association," Brook says. "So when you say, 'Isn't there a danger?', I'd say, 'Isn't there a virtue?'"

The quest, he suggests, is paramount. "What has made *Hamlet* great is above all the dramatising of an intense and anguished questioning. This passionate questioning is what really connects people as different as Craig, Artaud, Brecht, Meyerhold and Hamlet, and makes bedfellows of them all."

Qui Est La is at the Théâtre des Bouffes du Nord, Paris (0033 1 46 07 34 54 until March 23

CHAMBER MUSIC

Leader lost on group outing

THE Wihan Quartet of Prague won first prize at the 1991 London International String Quartet Competition, but since then it has been somewhat eclipsed by another excellent ensemble from that city, the Skampa Quartet.

It would be nice to be able to report that the Wihan, during their recent recital at the Wigmore Hall, deserved just as much acclaim as the Skampa. But, in all honesty, their playing cannot be said to have you on the edge of your seat in the same way, and the Wihans appear to have a major liability in the shape of their leader, Leos Cepicky.

His ill-tuned opening flourish in Schubert's *Quartetsatz* might charitably have been put down to nerves or the extreme climatic conditions. However, things did not improve. His idiosyncratic intonation (slightly sharp) and mis-hits continually distracted attention from the virtues of the ensemble.

Chief among these are the pulsating inner life it brings to textures of energetic passages, as well as an absolute precision of ensemble and a spontaneous interweaving of voices of which any quartet might be proud.

Wihan Quartet
Wigmore Hall

The Wihan was heard at its best in a work by Dvořák, a compatriot. In the G major Quartet Op 106 the interplay of instruments was finely controlled, whether in the context of the vivacious first movement (bows bouncing lightly on strings) or the rapt stillness of the closing bars of the Adagio.

Also admirable was the way meaning was given to what might normally have been regarded as padding for the inner voices. In the finale of the Dvořák it took the form of shimmering figuration: in the Trio of the Menuetto of Mozart's *Hunt* Quartet, K 458, it was an endearingly pronounced tick-tock accompaniment on the viola.

If the expressive modulations of the first movement of the Mozart might have been "placed" with a touch more care, the interplay of voices in all four movements was once again highly responsive, not least in the vigorous contrapuntal discourse of the finale.

BARRY MILLINGTON

A performance to charm the ear

PROBABLY the last of 1995's Purcell tercentenary tributes came from the Brindisi Quartet, who opened their Saturday night programme with three of his four-part Fantasias, played with rhythmic vivacity and warm sonority. This was the kind of performance that completely charmed the ear by its grace and clarity of contrapuntal lines, whether in the seamless transiency of No 6 in A minor, or the more intricate textures of the E minor Fantasia (No 7).

In any case they made an ideal foil to the formal symmetry and polyphonic skill of Bartók's Fourth Quartet (1928), its often abrasive writing demanding a physicality of attack from Jacqueline Shaver's first violin and her colleagues that they delivered with the utmost conviction. The brooding central movement was notable for its eloquently doleful cello solo (Christopher van Kampen) threaded through the other "night sounds" of Bartók's imagination.

On either side of this the two scherzo movements were finely characterised in the nervous wit of the first, where all the instruments are muted throughout, and the dynamic contrasts achieved entirely through plucked strings in the *allegretto pizzicato*.

After the break the pianist Barry Douglas renewed a previous association with the quartet by joining them again for the F minor Piano Quintet by Brahms. His piano had stood untouched but with its lid open through the previous part, setting up an occasional extra resonance to the string players, but in collaboration with them the grand romantic manner of Brahms took on almost the substance of a symphony.

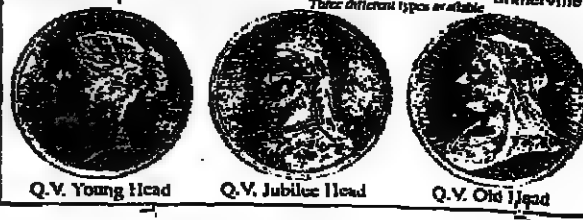
Douglas's powerful playing was always geared to the sonority of the strings, themselves richly sustained as well as crisply articulated, with a controlled fervour that must have spread a warm glow of satisfaction throughout a full hall.

Brindisi Quartet
Wigmore Hall

NOEL GOODWIN

Old Australian gold collection resurfaces
British Gold Sovereigns from the late 1800's come to light

One of the world's biggest collections of British gold sovereigns established by an Australian, Paul Terry, over many years is on the market again. When he died in the late 80's the collection was split up and sold. Part of the collection has now been rediscovered in the vaults of the ex Royal Mint branch in Perth, now owned by Western Australia Government. This hoard of British Victorian sovereigns dated between 1871-1901 and struck by the Royal Mint many of which have the mint marks of Melbourne and Sydney have survived in superb condition. Now over 100 years old and possibly struck from the metal extracted from the early gold rushes of the new colony. They represent good value for money and are steeped in history. These 22 carat gold coins weighing nearly a quarter of an ounce are being offered for sale by Trident Gold Coin Distribution at an excellent price of £99.00 each.



Q.V. Young Head Q.V. Jubilee Head Q.V. Old Head

مكتبة من الأهل

□ Scientists make glueball theory stick □ Study holds out prospect of snake-poison antidote □ Nasa goes fishing in space with superfine net

PHYSICISTS are homing in on yet another of the fundamental particles of matter, thanks to a heroic piece of computation by three scientists from IBM. In what may well be the largest single calculation ever performed by a computer, they have worked out the properties to be expected of objects known as "glueballs".

As their name implies, glueballs are the things that stick other particles together. The ruling theory of matter — known as the Standard Model — says that everything consists of quarks, assembled in various ways to make the more familiar protons and neutrons. But the Standard Model does not give any indication of what it is that holds the quarks together. That comes from a later theory, called quantum chromodynamics or QCD, which proposes the existence of gluons, particles that carry the strong nuclear forces to stick the quarks together.

The trouble has been that nobody has ever managed to see a gluon. Or maybe they have, without quite realising it. For the IBM calculation shows that the glueball, which consists of a clump of gluons, may be one and the same as the mysterious theta particle, picked up more than ten

Big sum adds up to success



SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

years ago in an experiment at the Stanford Linear Accelerator in California. Like all scientific theories, QCD makes predictions about how the world ought to behave. But the equations are so complex that they are impossible to solve without making simplifications, and even then they take a very long time on powerful computers. In a recent issue of *Physical Review Letters*,

the three IBM physicists — Don Weingarten, James Sexton, and Alessandro Vaccaro — present the results of a calculation that required 400 million billion operations, and took more than two years on a computer using almost 500 chips connected together in

parallel so that they could all compute at once, rather than one after the other. In fact, Weingarten used only 48 of them, keeping the rest in reserve in case some chips cracked during the marathon calculation.

Back in 1993, the same team had predicted that the lightest possible glueball would be detected at an energy of 1,740 million electron

volts, plus or minus 70. The latest calculations provide an estimate of the rate at which such a particle ought to decay into quarks and anti-quarks.

Both the mass and the decay characteristics fit the theta particle observed in 1991. That appeared briefly after the decay of a particle

made up of a quark and antiquark, which annihilate each other, leaving behind the lingering image of the gluons that held them together, rather like the grin on the face of the Cheshire Cat.

Dr Weingarten is convinced, though other scientists remain more sceptical. The British physicist Frank Close, head of theoretical physics at the Rutherford-Appleton Laboratory, has his own candidate. Guided by a prediction by a seven-university team called UK QCD, he went looking for a particle with a mass of about 1,550 MeV.

He and Swiss physicist Claude Amisler found it in an experiment that has been running at the low-energy antiproton ring at the European Particle Physics Laboratory in Geneva for the past five years. Among the decay products detected was one with a mass of 1,500 MeV. So is this, rather than the Standard particle, the true glueball?

Maybe, thinks Frank Close. Possibly, the two could be the same glueball in different guises. "It's sensible," he says, "to start taking seriously that glueballs really do exist." To prove it will need even more precise calculations, using better methods, and yet more experimental data.

Dissecting the cobra's venom



ISRAELI scientists have unravelled the three-dimensional geometry that lies behind the cobra's deadly venom. The work, supported by the United States Army Medical and Development Command, could help in the production of new antidotes for snake venom, or for nerve gases that work in a similar way.

Snake venom kills by interfering with a key enzyme, anticholinesterase (AChE). The job of the enzyme is to break down the chemical acetylcholine, which carries messages from nerves to muscles. If the signalling chemical is not broken down, it continuously sends the same message, causing muscles to contract and eventually killing the victim.

A team from the Weizmann Institute, Rehovot, made crystals of a complex formed by AChE and a toxin called fasciculin, contained in the venom of the green mamba, a relative of the cobra. From previous work the team

knew that the enzyme has a deep, narrow chasm in its three-dimensional structure. It is within this chasm that the acetylcholine is broken down. They also knew that fasciculin looks rather like a hand with three fingers sticking out.

They found by analysing the complex that the "middle finger" of the toxin wedges itself straight into the enzyme's chasm, preventing the acetylcholine from getting in.

This is possible because electrical charges on the enzyme and the toxin nudge the approaching toxin into the right position before contact is made.

Catching comet dust in a soufflé



THE US space agency Nasa is to go fishing for stardust, using as a net the lightest-known solid material. Early next century a satellite called Stardust will swoop past comet Wild-2, missing its icy core by 60 miles or so, to scoop up dust particles that make up the comet's tail. This is the very stuff of

which the solar system was made. The mission should collect thousands of dust particles and parachute them down to the deserts of Utah for a mere \$200 million, which planetary scientists regard as bargain basement. It is now 23 years since the last samples of extra-terrestrial material were recovered by Apollo 17 astronauts, but that project cost \$25 billion. Getting fragments of a comet for \$200 million is "nearly miraculous", says the principal investigator, Donald Brownlee, of the University of Washington.

Not the least of the problems is slowing the particles to a halt without damaging them, as they will be moving through space at a speed of 12,000 miles an hour. The material to do it is an aerogel, a substance rather like expanded polystyrene but more so. In an aerogel, 99.9 per cent of the volume is air, separated by a three-dimensional network of silica. Aerogels are nature's soufflés, nearly as light as air but surprisingly strong. Tiny particles from the comet's tail colliding with the aerogel will gently bury themselves in it and slow down so imperceptibly that they will be undamaged. On the ground, the astronomers will extract and examine the primordial matter.

Can scientists shake off their mad media image?

American physicists are campaigning to change the way they are portrayed on screen, but Geoff Brown believes the absent-minded professor is here to stay

Robert Park, a professor at the University of Maryland, has not been the same since he saw a commercial for a slimming aid on American television last autumn. It was not the product itself that disturbed him: as a specialist in condensed matter, some might say he is in the dieting business himself. No, it was the man in the corner, a small, twitching scientist with bad skin who sits grunting in his lab and proves the butt of the advertiser's humour.

Professor Park was not laughing. For him the advertisement was the last straw. Supported by colleagues in the American Physical Society, he has let his wrath boil over in a full-scale assault on the popular image of scientists as

nurtured by movies and television. Scientists are generally portrayed as myopic, absent-minded, unkempt of hair, even crazed: and all this at a time when most social, ethnic or professional groups are wrapped in the cotton wool of political correctness.

"This is not healthy," Park argues, "nor is it a trivial concern. Never in my life have I met a scientist who looked remotely like Jerry Lewis's professor, the shambling, buck-toothed hero of *The Nutty Professor*. And take *Jurassic Park*: it was good in that it gave children perhaps their only introduction to genetic engineering, but when the scientists in the film get the secret of life, what do they do? They build an amusement park!"

The professor is right, of

course. Though there have been a few serious attempts to treat scientists with respect, the archetype of most movie scientists remains Mary Shelley's Victor Frankenstein. Brilliant man, of course, but misguided; apt to get carried away in his obsession with creating Boris Karloff from an assortment of body parts.

Frankenstein had even madder movie contemporaries. There was Dr Moreau, created by H.G. Wells, and memorably given life by Charles Laughton in *Island of Lost Souls*. His speciality was also genetic engineering: his laboratory was an island of grotesques, half-animal, half-human. Or how about Dr Alexander Thorke as a role model? Albert Dekker's character in *Dr Cyclops* might be the world's greatest biologist, but his fondness for shrinking people to the size of chickens does not suggest a candidate for the Nobel Prize.

Postwar movie scientists were largely of a different breed. They wore white coats and worked on hush-hush government assignments — though their mental stability was still questionable. Science in the 1950s was widely accepted as the new frontier, but this was also a time of fear and paranoia, and some scientists

wanted to push the boundaries too far. Men like Lee Van Cleef in *It Conquered the World*: he regarded the "it" as a close personal friend, and got chewed up for his pains by a squashed cactus from Venus.

Film after film repeated the conflict: the men with guns keen to shoot down the alien; the men with clipboards eager to learn from a superior civilisation. Science-fiction films of the Fifties also fed the suspicion that scientists were tampering too much with nature. So many nuclear tests took place in New Mexico that the result, in *Them!*, was an army of giant ants.

Once horror and science-fiction films had established the stereotype of the mad or misguided scientist, comedies and action extravaganzas stepped in to spread it around.

Youngsters in the 1960s delighted in *The Absent-Minded Professor*, the Disney comedy featuring Fred MacMurray as the distracted inventor of "flubber" — flying rubber, that is.

Twenty-five years later, a different generation rejoiced at Christopher Lloyd's crazed inventor of the time machine car in *Back to the Future*. And *Dr Cyclops* has been reborn in an innocent guise as *Honey, I Shrunk the Kids*. Since Rick Moranis's scientist is a bumbling nerd, the shrinkage is now accidental.

Instead of fulminating against bad type-casting, the American Physical Society should ask themselves why serious movie characterisations of scientists have not

taken hold. A worthy scientist, all scriptwriters know, is a boring one. True, the moment of discovery might produce high drama; but how do you handle the years of research, the false trails, the midnight hours hunched over computers and test-tubes?

A few successes can be found. Peter Ustinov's *School for Secrets*, made in Britain in 1946, did its best to capture the tension of scientists battling to perfect radar. And in 1967, *Life Story*, the BBC's excellent film about cracking the DNA code, made the research process appear as exciting as a detective thriller.

Even Hollywood has made some attempt to treat science seriously. Warner Bros tried in the 1930s with popular biographical films about Louis Pasteur fighting microbes and

Dr Ehrlich fighting syphilis. A few years later at MGM, Greer Garson lent her gentle charms to the story of Madame Curie. But in the battle between science and Hollywood gloss, science invariably lost out. Scientists trying to shake hands with Martians were so much more entertaining.

The language of science is another problem. Either scriptwriters bamboozle the general audience with glibberish, or an expert is hired to coach everyone in the authentic technical terms. Film-makers want words to match the reality of their sets and special effects, with the result that half the talk in *Apollo 13* sails over people's heads. At least Professor Park recognises the problem. "We cannot seem to free ourselves of the jargon in

which we address ourselves he says. "Our wives have g used to it, but not the public."

What price, then, a television series about scientist Professor Leon Lederman, the Illinois Institute of Technology, is so eager to see or that he has set up a fight fund with the American Association for the Advancement of Science to help explore it possibilities. The result is *72 Dean*, a projected show also a research facility where scientists regularly make earth shattering breakthroughs.

British producer Adri Malone, whose credits include *The Ascent of Man*, has been given the job of pitching it concept to the US network. The only rules, he says, a "not to tell lies about science and never to bore people. Some contradiction, surely?"



Frankenstein's legacy: Christopher Lloyd continues the cinema's tradition of nutty scientists as the time-travelling inventor in *Back to the Future*

Antarctic rock holds secret of global warming

Researchers are preparing to drill beneath the sea ice for clues to the climate of the past, says Jo Andrews

Geologists in Antarctica have successfully completed trials for a drilling project about to unlock some of the most important secrets of the Earth's climate. They hope, with the help of rocks up to a hundred million years old, to make more accurate predictions about the impact of global warming.

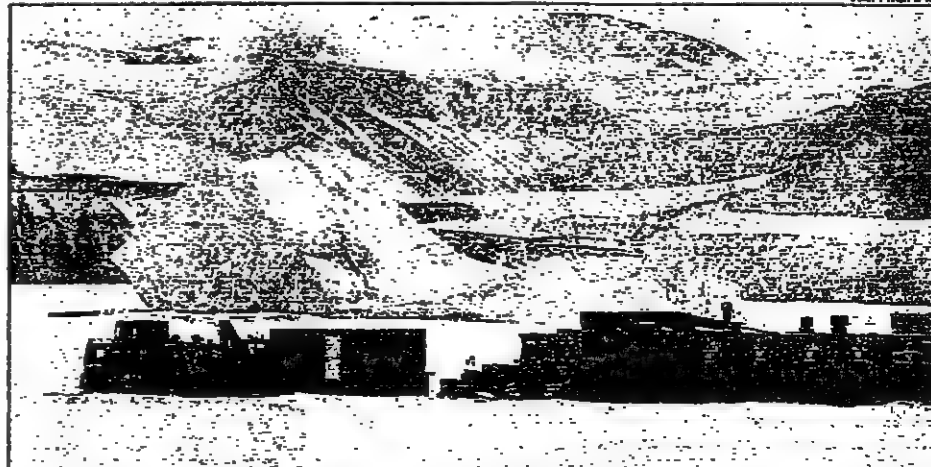
The Cape Roberts project, which is being undertaken by six nations, including Britain, involves drilling in some of the toughest conditions on the planet. The rocks that geologists want to sample lie offshore from the Transantarctic Mountains in the Ross Dependency. To reach them will mean drilling from the sea ice, nearly half a mile beneath the sea bed.

The drill rig, which is being built in Christchurch, New Zealand, is due to be shipped to Cape Roberts this month. Rig and platform will be about 50ft high and the entire research unit will weigh more than 50 tonnes. All that has to be balanced on sea ice, in places no more than 5ft thick.

The scientists and drill crews will have to work in temperatures as low as minus 35C, and winds of up to 40 knots, while living on site for six weeks at a time, in converted shipping containers.

Geologists believe the core samples, which will cost more than \$5 million (about £3.3 million) to obtain, will yield vital information about the stability of the Antarctic ice sheet and how it changes when the climate changes. The project's science manager, Alex Pyne, of Victoria University in New Zealand, says: "We hope it will help us to predict more accurately what may happen in Antarctica when global warming occurs."

Some scientists think that the Earth's average temperature may warm by two or three degrees, in Antarctica that could be as much as five to seven degrees. What happened in previous warmer times? How much of the sea ice disappeared? How much of the Antarctic ice sheet melted? And how much did sea levels rise? People don't know the answers. One way of predict-



Cape Roberts in Antarctica, where drilling will start in some of the world's toughest terrain

ing is to go to rock history to find out what happened in a previous warm time.

The rocks that will be studied are anything between 30 and 100 million years old and were formed before the present major ice build-up in Antarctica, when dinosaurs became extinct. Cape Roberts is the perfect site to find them because they have been pushed far closer to the surface there by the rise of the Transantarctic Mountains and because the glaciers have gouged out the sea bed.

The Antarctic Ocean is also

the birthplace of most of the main weather systems in the southern hemisphere, so the information could help meteorologists to predict what kind of global climate changes will occur if the sea levels rise in the ocean.

All the equipment will be stored over winter on the Antarctic mainland at Cape Roberts. Next October, spring in Antarctica, if the ice is considered thick and stable enough, the rig will be dragged 12 miles over the sea ice to the first drill site.

Rock beneath the ocean floor in Antarctica is not frozen, and the geologists want the cores to stay that way to prevent them from being damaged. That means ensuring that they do not freeze as they come up through the sea, which is at minus 2C, and then to the surface, where the air temperature may be as low as minus 35C. It means that the mud pumped into the drill holes to help cut the rock, and the core samples taken out all have to be electrically heated. In addition, the whole working platform of the rig will be

encased and warmed to make it possible for the crew work. They will work 12-hour shifts round the clock in the 2 hour daylight of the late spring and early summer.

When the cores cor up, they will be cut half, photographed and described then move still heated, back to the American base at McMurdo Sound where researchers will analyse them.

Drilling will continue for two summer seasons, with the entire site packed up on 1 mainland for the winter. T strict environmental protection governing Antarctica mean that when the project over there should be no tra of it remaining, apart from many findings from project which are expected to be published in August 1998.

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Matthew Parris



■ To wash or not to wash? Greasy hair could become, like the red Aids ribbon, a fashion item

I have just washed my hair. The news might seem unworthy of note were it not for two surrounding circumstances, both unusual. First, my whole head was covered in snot. Second, I gave up washing my hair in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, in 1994 on my birthday, August 7.

Or, to be less sensational and more precise, I gave up washing hair with shampoo, detergent or soap. The snot-induced relapse is to be both the first and the last in 1996.

This story is about hair, not snot, so let us get the snot out of the way. In the Pyrenees, where my parents live and where my Christmas holiday has been spent, we live in an isolated house with an oil-fired boiler. This extinguished itself at the end of 1995, choked by carbon. It had been wrongly adjusted. A morning was spent, with my father, removing sackfuls of diesel snot: a fine, greasy powder which gets into your lungs, mouth, eyes, and most of all, your hair. There was nothing for it but shampoo.

Today, though, my voluntary economic sanctions against Procter & Gamble, Johnson & Johnson, The Body Shop and the whole shampoo racket, continue. Along with training myself, once from a four-and-a-quarter-hour to a two-and-a-half-hour marathon, this has been the most unambiguously successful experiment ever conducted on my own body, and a good deal less strenuous.

Hair doesn't need shampoo, you see. If you stop stripping the oil from your scalp, your scalp stops producing it. Cease washing your hair and it does not get greasier; it gets less greasy.

That is why dogs, cats, guinea-pigs and monkeys do not have greasy fur, although they never shampoo. This truth first dawned on me by chance, on a swimming holiday. We were all in and out of the water so often that my hair never developed that lank, oily look which says "shampoo me", so why bother? Washing it with warm water alone proved sufficient to keep it clean, and this continued after the holiday. I relapsed, but later, on my 44th birthday, in Bolivia, I decided to start the experiment properly. The immediate result of the shampoo ban was the expected one: my hair became disgustingly lank and greasy. I stepped up the vigour and frequency of warm water washes. Gradually the oiliness subsided. Within a month it disappeared completely. Presumably the natural oil glands in the scalp had found the right balance of secretion against depletion: enough to keep the hair fluffy without being dry. Warm water alone, of course, does remove excess

Dogs, cats and monkeys do not have greasy fur, although they never shampoo

listed: "Water, sodium lauryl sulphate, cocamidopropyl betaine, glycol distearate, cocamide MEA, disodium laureth sulfosuccinate, cocamide DEA, fragrance, hydroxypropyl guar, hydroxypropyltrimonium chloride, citric acid, methylidibromo glutaronitrile, phenoxyethanol." Golly, I wonder what the cost might be, having put all that down our drains along with tens of thousands of gallons of grease, of getting it all out again, to provide the clean water with which to wash our hair, again?

My option — to stop shampooing — has costs too, which I must not conceal. Your hair never gets that almost unnatural lustre hair gains immediately after shampooing (though you can use conditioner alone). And, though the more you wash with water the less dandruff you have, you never completely eliminate it as you can with anti-dandruff shampoos (how, chemically, they do this, one prefers not to contemplate). And there is that initial barrier: the first few weeks of greasy hair. But perhaps if we all gave up shampooing for Rwanda the greasy hair, like the Aids ribbon, could become a fashion item? Stranger things have happened. My campaign against shampoo goes on. *La lacha*, not to say *la ducha*, continua.

Asia has a solution to Labour's future policy problems which will satisfy even the middle class

Blair could make it the year of the tiger

Repeated tactical reverses are always a sign of the failure of strategy. When he came to office, John Major did have a strategy; in contrast to Margaret Thatcher's caution, his foreign policy was based on a close friendship with Germany and his economic policy on membership of the European exchange-rate mechanism. He signed the Treaty of Maastricht and unexpectedly won the general election of 1992. For a time the strategy looked successful, and it was certainly not stupid; however, it broke down in the autumn of 1992, when Germany decided not to support the pound. John Major's trouble was that he wanted the German alliance much more than Helmut Kohl wanted a British one.

John Major found it impossible to replace his original strategy after it broke down. The Government's European policy became incoherent. The benefits of leaving the ERM won him no political credit because he had taken the pound into the ERM and had tried desperately to keep it there. He has by now lost the confidence both of the pro-Europeans and of the Euro-sceptics.

A deadlock Cabinet has been unable to agree on any new strategy. That has resulted in the recurrence of tactical defeats of which Emma Nicholson's transfer to the Liberal Democrats is only the most recent. There is, however, an alternative strategy which could have been much more popular: it seems likely to become the strategy on which the Conservative Party will best be able to unite in Opposition.

The new strategy is based on that of the Asian tiger. The aim would be to make Britain an off-shore European tiger with high savings, high growth, high levels of employment, low public expenditure, low taxes and low costs. Public expenditure should be brought down from its present

level of more than 40 per cent of GDP to 30 per cent, a target advocated both by Lord Skidelsky and by Chris Patten, the Governor of Hong Kong. This cannot be achieved without radical reform of the welfare state, which is in any case necessary on demographic and financial grounds. The aim would also be to raise the level of savings from below 20 per cent to around 30 per cent of GDP. One of the worst failures of the postwar welfare and tax structures has been the inadequate level of British savings since 1945, "10 per cent less tax; 10 per cent more savings" — that would be the Asian tiger prescription. This Asian strategy goes with the rejection of Euro federalism which has already been made explicit by Malcolm Rifkind and John Redwood, Germany, France, Italy and Spain all suffer from excessive welfare costs and taxation, to an even greater degree than Britain. The British tigers are not anti-European but they detest the continuing European decline, and fear that a single currency would lock Britain into further decades of Euro-sclerosis.

Chris Patten, Malcolm Rifkind and John Redwood are three formidable Conservative leaders for the future. Even if the Labour Party wins the next election, which is very likely to be this year, these three highly intelligent politicians should be able to put together a coherent and attractive British tiger policy in

Opposition. They compare favourably with anyone in Tony Blair's Shadow Cabinet except Blair himself. Such a Conservative strategy in the next Parliament would test the incoherencies of the Labour strategy on Europe, on taxation and on the economy. Blair is far from having solved all his own strategic problems.

In Tokyo on Friday, after a holiday in the healthy entrepreneurial climate of Australia — his second visit in six months — Tony Blair is expected to discuss the issues of

interest in the Asian strategy, as has Frank Field. Last November, Blair made a speech in which he argued that it was "investment and savings that have been the motor for economic development in Asia". He went on to commit new Labour to "reform of welfare". He still seems to suffer from the illusion that high taxation does not crowd out savings.

One sentence in his speech seemed particularly significant: "In Singapore, government spends 18 per cent of GDP, but for people under 55, employees and employers each face a compulsory savings rate of 20 per cent." The European welfare state provides its benefits through taxation and transfer, often between people of equal wealth, without funding the future expenditure and at the cost of current savings. The Singapore welfare model builds up individual savings accounts which the individual can invest and can use for specified welfare purposes, including education, medical care and retirement. These savings become freely available at the age of 55, on retirement, disablement, or death. They can be passed on to the next generation.

If Britain had been operating a system like that of the Singapore Central Provident Fund since 1953, our savings would probably have compounded at a rate more than 50 per cent higher than we actually achieved. It would be interesting to have a proper statistical calculation

of the likely outcome. Even a back-of-the-envelope calculation suggests that the average family would have additional savings in six figures, and that the additional national capital might be a couple of trillion pounds. What is certain is that we should be much richer if we had paid for welfare not out of taxation but out of real savings and investment.

The new Labour Government will have to decide whether to move from the "tax and spend" system to "save and invest". Such a transfer would take the State out of a large part of welfare expenditure; the switch would, in time, reduce the State's share of GDP to around the 30 per cent level, while adding 10 per cent to the level of savings. For Tony Blair, the attractions are obvious; the British CPF would raise the sustainable rate of growth of the UK economy, reduce unemployment, give room both to high-priority government expenditure and to reducing taxes, and would make the new Labour Party the darling of the middle class. No single policy could make a Labour victory in the election after next more likely.

There are counter-arguments. Old Labour might regard a Central Provident Fund as privatising the welfare state, which in one sense it would be. Europe might not like Britain adopting so fundamental a tiger policy, though if it succeeded it would strengthen Britain's European position. Some purists might regard the CPF as an interference in free markets; the Treasury might think it took away what ought to be taxes. These objections do not seem overwhelming. Tony Blair is a clever and modern man. He will therefore find Singapore and the CPF a great temptation. After all, the CPF helped Lee Kuan Yew to remain Prime Minister for 29 years, which would take Tony Blair through to 2025 when he will still be only 72 years old

William Rees-Mogg

globalisation and to commit new Labour to an open trade policy. He recognises that there are no more jobs for life, and that new technology has created huge insecurity, but is opposed to the protectionist or isolationist reaction. He recognises that there can be no going back to bureaucratic controls and that national tax rates have to be internationally competitive. The danger of over-reaction to the global competition in new technology does indeed exist both on the Left and on the Right.

On Saturday, Blair will arrive in Singapore. He has already shown an

Why Emma couldn't stay

The latest Tory deserter is speaking for many voters, says Peter Riddell



Emma Nicholson's reasons for changing party are a complicated mixture of personal frustration and policy disagreement. But, then, so are all defections, indeed all political decisions. It was especially crass of Michael Heseltine to challenge her explanation. Within a week of the tenth anniversary of his own walk out from the Thatcher Cabinet over the Westland affair, he, of all people, should remember that politicians are always motivated by a combination of personal ambition and principle.

British politics is so tribal that defection is never straightforward or easy. That is why it is so rare. Talking to Miss Nicholson over the weekend, I was struck how similar her odyssey was in its gradual doubts, loosening of party ties and unexpected breaking point to the explanation offered by Alan Howarth when I interviewed him three months ago.

In both cases, the real question was not their unhappiness with government policies. A couple of dozen Tory MPs, and many more on particular issues, share their dislike of the Government's equivocation over Europe, its approach to the Asylum Bill, single parents, prison policy or the alleged general shift to the Right. But very few of them, certainly no more than half a dozen, have even considered changing party, and I would be startled if even two or three more did so before the next election. Some of the disenchanted have already announced that their retirement as MPs and others will continue, grumbling in private but holding ties of personal and party loyalty, as well as a desire to fight on for their beliefs.

What is different about the defection

is not their degree of disagreement, but their personal frustration: their inability to see how they can affect policy. Mr Howarth's disillusionment began after the 1992 election, when he ceased being a minister in part because he would not have "a substantial influence on the course of government at a senior level and it would be better to come out and find a new independence".

Miss Nicholson told me how she felt muzzled as a parliamentary private secretary. Having previously been involved in groups as diverse as the truncheon campaign, the Howard League for Penal Reform and Shelter, she could see "little point in being an MP if denied freedom of speech and on the few occasions when I broke ranks [as in criticising ministerial attacks on single parents] being disciplined severely by the whips".

RIDDELL ON NICHOLSON

It was this sense of unfulfilled energy that led both to her resignation as a PPS three months ago and to her two approaches to Mr Heseltine, of which so much has been made since Friday. According to her version, these were less conversations than "30-second soundbites"; less a request for a ministerial job than a cry for help: a question about what role there was for her in the contemporary Tory party.

Her dispute with him is one of those strange paradoxes in which politics abounds. Not only did she actively support Mr Heseltine during the 1990 leadership campaign, but she wanted him to become party leader last summer, and hoped he would stand in a second ballot.

Why, I asked, hadn't she rallied to Kenneth Clarke's robust defence of the pro-European, One Nation views she has held? She admires the Chancellor and he could have been "perhaps the one person to have kept me back. I tried to talk to him, but he did not have enough time". Nobody seemed prepared to listen, a complaint also made by Mr Howarth over the jobseeker's allowance and disabled rights.

These frustrations were reinforced by a growing dislike of the attitudes of many fellow Tory MPs. For Miss Nicholson, the crunch came over the Nolan Inquiry. She believes in greater transparency and the disclosure by MPs of what they earn from parliamentary activities. When she gave evidence to Nolan, she was told by the Tory whips that she had betrayed her colleagues.

Worse was to come two months ago, when, after she was one of two dozen Tory MPs to vote for dislodging a party colleague with a sharp blow in the stomach. She was also insulted by fellow Tories complaining about their "substantial loss of income as a result of my vote which had lost the Conservatives the election".

There then followed the rapid courtship with the Liberal Democrat — an initial flirtation with neighbouring Devon MP Nick Harvey, followed by discussions with Lord Holmes of Cheltenham, the party's ace-fixer, in the role of marriage broker. And now have come the recriminations.

The pattern is remarkable similar to what occurred during the long disintegration of the Balfour Government 90 years ago. Four of the seven Tory defections to other major parties this century occurred in spring 1900. One was the youthful and brash Winston Churchill, who was far ruder about Tory ministers, even when he was still in the party, than either Mr Howarth or Miss Nicholson have been since they left.

Churchill, in turn, was described as "a narcissist", "half alien, an wholly undesirable", and of "trimming his sails to every passing wind". Sir Robert Rhodes James writes in his *Churchill: A Study in Failure 1900-39* how "as always in these matters, motives were probably mixed". But he acknowledges Churchill's desire to get on, so "there seems little doubt that he could have been retained, at least temporarily, if the Conservative Party had been given promotion".

Miss Nicholson and Mr Howarth like the other Tory defectors, are not in the same league, either in ability or ambition. And their political future looks far more limited. But however convoluted their motives, such defectors can neither be dismissed as disloyal nor ignored. Not only do they threaten the Government's ready slim majority but they have expressed doubts held by the vast greater number of voters who have already deserted the Tories.

Party planner

WHILE MOST of us brush our teeth this morning to the plink plink fizz of New Year's Day, Lord Archer, the pince-nez friend of Conservative prime ministers, will be brooding on the millennium.

He is planning his most spectacular party yet to see in 2,000 with his formula of Krug (stocks are already secured) and shepherd's

pie. "Krug has promised me that this champagne and shepherd's pie will be the most memorable," he says.

His thoughts are on the guest list, being honed in consultation with Old Archer's Almanack. "John Major will be at the start of his fourth administration as Prime Minister; the Viscount Heseltine will be leader of the Lords," he says. "Tony Blair will be chairman of the BBC and Ken Livingstone Leader of the Opposition."

There will be a brace of Euro-Commissioners on his list: Sir William Cash and Sir John Prescott; John Redwood, Secretary of State for Scotland, may show up; and the jolly-jumped Gyles Brandreth will pop in as Secretary of State for National Heritage.

With Michael Portillo, the Leader of the House; Peter Lilley, the Chancellor; and William Hague, the Home Secretary, in attendance, Archer believes the party will go with a swing. He will be steering political opinion from a different perspective: "I shall have bought The Times to make sure that at least one newspaper will be supporting the Government."



He's finding it tough — his resolution was party loyalty

● One or two Tories in Emma Nicholson's Devon West and Torridge constituency are relieved at her defection to the Liberal Democrat camp because they'll no longer have to attend her parties.

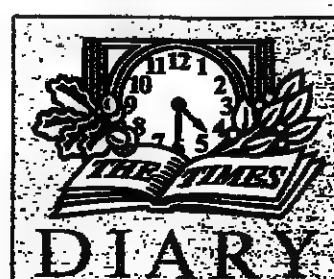
"She's the world's worst party-giver," broods one old boy. "Invites everybody she knows. I sat between an Iraqi and a Kuwaiti contingent once. Thought nuclear war would break out over my head."

Jack the lad

JACK RUSSELL, whose terrible batting and wicketkeeping have done so much to keep English



Patricia Arquette: demanded a black orchid from her suitor



DIARY

hopes alive in South Africa, is being put up for a dubious honour. His home town of Stroud in Gloucestershire wants to name a thoroughfare Jack Russell Street.

There is already Russell Street, named after Stroud's 19th-century MP and Prime Minister, Earl Russell. But Margaret Noidler, leader of the district council, wants Jack added. Locals are unimpressed: "Sounds like an alley full of lampposts," said one.

Uncaged

PATRICIA ARQUETTE, the attractive American actress, wasn't at all an easy catch to land. In next month's issue of *Esquire*, her husband, Nicolas Cage, explains how he declared undying love on their first encounter over bagels in a deli-

cates when she was just 19. So she set him an impossible quest to prove that his intent was honorable.

"She wrote a list of things she wanted," he admits slavishly. J.D. Salinger's autograph; a black orchid; a wedding dress from a tribe in northern Tibet; and Bob's Big Boy, a fireproof safe from a hamburger restaurant in Los Angeles, were among the trophies he had to collect.

Cage got the autograph, dyed black an orchid but manifestly failed on all other counts. He wasn't to marry his girl for another eight years.

Rude health

TONY BLAIR'S press secretary Alastair Campbell is a non-smoker, and an article which he wrote for a pornographic title when he was 22 and puffing like a train may help explain why he stopped. His thesis was that cigs were anti-social and damaged his sex life.

The article has been reprinted in a top-shelf magazine, under the headline "Sex v Smoking". It cannot, of course, be reproduced in its entirety in a family newspaper, but the gist of the argument is distilled in one philosophical gem: "The smoker, unfit as he is, is unlikely to



Shirley MacLaine and Doris Stokes: still talking to Dino

be able to keep the bedsprings jumping all night."

Last toast

GOOD TASTE didn't interfere with Dean Martin's Hollywood funeral. Friday's congregation included Jerry Lewis, Nancy Sinatra, Angie Dickinson and an old drinking friend, Shirley MacLaine, who has a reputation as a Doris Stokes-style medium.

"I'll talk to you later," Miss



MacLaine said in her address looking at a framed snapshot of Martin. Piped music included his hit, *Little Old Westerner*. Me, as appropriate number given the demands made of Dino's liver.

Lewis departed from the throng with some comments about his old mucker that had the padre all-but swallowing his dentures: "Rest well and don't forget to short-sheet [ie, apple-pie] my bed when I get there."

P-H-S



NEW YEAR MESSAGE

Determined dreams in search of Tory voice.

Some Tories still believe they can win the next election; some even want to; and some know that, as long as economic conditions are correct, they must necessarily win it. New year is the determinist's special time to dream, the time when newspapers normally carry more predictions than news, when even the most myopic of voters risk a glimpse into the future. To those who think that what must be will be, this has also the advantage of being a somewhat quieter time when the forces of inevitability can be given a subtle push in the proper direction.

Thus comes the new Conservative advertising message this weekend, stressing those elemental Tory forces of low tax, low mortgages, low inflation, low rate of strikes and asking Which Country has the best record in marshalling them. It gives the answer too: Our Country. The reader is asked to spend a leisurely moment considering the solid achievements of the past 16 years, identifying with them and pondering whether, despite all the miserable business of day-to-day politics, it is really time for a change to Labour.

This holiday season has not, of course, been the usual quiet time in Tory politics. The "which country" campaign, which began in full page press advertisements on New Year's Eve, was conceived when Emma Nicholson was no more than a whingeing irritant in the Chief Whip's half closed eye. The campaign's copywriters were not to know then that holiday-duty journalists struggling for the superlative language of snow would be able to fill their front pages with fresh tales of battered Tories, vanishing majorities and opposition triumph.

The new advertisement is interesting, nonetheless. For, to a Tory determinist, the noisy flight of Miss Nicholson is as nothing in itself. What matters to Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister and the senior and most purist in the cause, is that the economic achievements of the Conservatives exist and are seen to exist. The first of these aims, the mere existence of success, ought strictly to be enough by itself. But the second aim cannot be ignored: for various reasons the party has not made the here-and-now as marvellous as it once knew how to; it must know how to do so again.

The biggest problem for the Tory communicator is not the party's division over

Europe: Miss Nicholson's views of this issue are as dangerous, blinkered and as suitable for Opposition as they have always been. Yes, John Major has been moving away from her — and he has the backing of history and principle in so doing. The real problems for the Tories are the Tory politicians. Government ministers tramp upon a never-ending staircase of events. Party bosses bark like bad-tempered animals. Most backbenchers see a merciless disaster closing fast upon their hopes: few find support or solace from Downing Street and many are unwilling now to pretend otherwise. What is the salesman for the Conservatives to do?

The new advertisement is not quite free of politicians. The proud claims about the success of Our Country are attributed to the writer of the streaky signature whose name, were it written on one of the Christmas cards in this office, could be interpreted as a New Zealand rugby player, a Japanese diplomat or, more likely, someone not known by any of us. John Major's name is handwritten but not printed; nor is he pictured. The name of the Conservative Party is in such small type that even a Tory Whip could be excused for failing to notice its absence from duty. The advertisement is undoubtedly effective.

Labour leaders may be happy to shrug at this latest recovery attempt and get back to the business of destroying Mr Major before he has even a chance to recover. But to Conservatives who truly want to win the election there may be comfort yet in this message for the new year. Tory loyalists already expect little good from the "hell and high water" that the Prime Minister promised his party chairman this weekend. They can easily predict the lost by-elections and local elections and the damnation of the Scott report. They know that their governing majority is at risk from both defection and the grave: whether the probability of death or defeat is the lower, even Mr Heseltine cannot know.

But they can also contemplate how, even in a year of more messy deals and compromise, there will be achievements to add to earlier economic advance. Tory words will certainly be found to express those achievements. Tory money will be found to make sure that those words are read and heard. As for the Tory voices, they will ideally be of the disembodied kind.

NEW WORLD TIMES

First with the news — and now around the world

From today *The Times* is available on computer screens from Valparaiso to Woolloomooloo: this edition has been "live", as they say, since 2.30am and since then, at the tap of a few keys, enthusiasts who once had to wait for plane or boat to bring them their favourite British newspaper have been able to find us simultaneously with those relying on printed paper in Europe. On the West Coast of America this is yesterday afternoon's paper. May we wish our readers there a very good evening, and many more good evenings with *The Times* to come.

At first the users of this new service may be comparatively few. We expect that those with the choice of an electronic or printed edition will long prefer the more familiar form. But for readers who live or work abroad the impact can be immediate. And for the benefit of those closer to home we are determined that the heart of *The Times* should be as rapidly instantiated in the new electronic media as it has always been in other great technical changes of the past.

This is a moment to remember that *The Times* has always made its name by innovation, to recall how on November 28, 1814, the proprietor came down the press room at 6am and announced to the printers whom he had held on standby: "The *Times* is already printed by steam." John Walter's first steam press in Britain transformed the inky trade from a cottage handicraft into a roaring industrial giant.

The Times was founded to advertise the most revolutionary new printing technology since Gutenberg: whole words preset in type instead of single letters. For capturing and bringing home the news *The Times* hired the new steamships, trains, balloons and air-

craft. It pioneered the telegraph and wireless. The history of *The Times* can be told as one long story of newer and faster processes and presses, from revolutionary colour plates and half-tone photographs to the Internet today.

Not all these changes were predicted as important at the time. Newspapers have taken technological blind allies in the past and they will do so again. It is always dangerous to predict how technology will develop. But *The Times* is as determined as ever that its essential qualities — once confined to London by the feet and wheels of delivery-boys and then spread slowly out from the coffee-houses of the City by stage-coach and train — should be more accessible now to continental Europe and beyond.

From today there is a new "interactive" *Times* section, containing a news update in which the day's events as presented in the final edition are monitored and taken forward; all the classified advertisements and even our famous crosswords will come in this interactive form. We intend to introduce a personal *Times* system by which the reader can first order up *a la carte* those parts of the paper that he or she particularly wants. This instant computer selection should simulate the fingers turning the pages in the library, train or at home.

For those who prefer their *Times* in the hand and the serendipity of the daily help-yourself search, the paper is still here in something like the form that John Walter invented. But it is selling in numbers and to places undreamt of in the ambitions of our thundering founding fathers. Today we increase our range further: the entire world can be our news-stand.

STARS ON A PLATE

Librarians are cocksure creatures. They know what they want and they usually get it. Baroness Thatcher was an archetype, as was Mahatma Gandhi before her and Eamonn de Valera. Cut from the same star-cloth were T. S. Eliot, Oscar Wilde, Nietzsche and the Duchess of York — irrepressible authors all.

Yet our Librarian Monarch-elect for 1996 is that man with the American Express plastic: Sir Terence Conran. His immodest television persona may irritate the middle classes a bit, but think of how profoundly drab their lives would be without him. In his *fizzing innings* as the nation's premier style-and-grub guru, he has perked up homes as much as palates, delivering us from provincial evils and a stilted way of living.

Apart from a sharp exchange with Sir Roy Strong over his savaging of the Conran biography, most biting and chewing was done last year in one or other of Sir Terence's many restaurants. The latest, the massive Mezzo in London's Soho, opened in September. But the next year promises a move away from the Conran-crowded capital. Glasgow

beckons. With all the propitious moons moving firmly into his fifth kitchen, the restless entrepreneur has decided to set up shop in Scotland's fiercest city. A new Conran shop — "only the fourth in the world" — is planned for Glasgow's old Sheriff Court building. The district council now sits in judgment on the application, but this Librarian's stars are favourable. Taking style to Glasgow may be a delicate exercise, but it will not be without its testing moments. Sir Terence has not, so far, balked at a good challenge.

Where else this year will the expert navigator go? What other form of restaurant will he conjure up for us? Will he cater for an Oxford college or open a chop-house at Lords? We do not need the stars to tell us that he might be using less British beef in his eateries this year than he did in 1995. This Librarian will have a jaunty 1996 — expansionist, innovative and daring. And as an even busier man, he will have no time to make those ads again. His stars, our astrologer tells us, say nothing about television.

Lessons as Emma Nicholson defects

From Mr Christopher Jackson

Sir, Apart from the reduction of the parliamentary majority, many Tories will deeply regret Emma Nicholson's defection (report, later editions, December 30) because of her steadfast support for Europe and her obvious care for people. Whatever the full reasons for her move, she dramatically illustrates the risks inherent in the Conservative Party moving to the right and "wrapping itself in the flag" as the election approaches.

Threatened by Sir James Goldsmith's party on its flank outside and by its own Euro-sceptics inside, it is tempting for the Prime Minister to shift further in a right-wing, reluctant European direction. To do this will attract voters who would otherwise abstain or vote for Goldsmith. However, as Emma Nicholson has demonstrated, moves to gather support on the Right will lose support from the centre, particularly from those who believe it is in Britain's interests to play a full and positive role in Europe. As those at the centre outnumber those on the Right the danger is that of losing far more votes than are gained.

Europe is at the heart of the Conservatives' internal difficulties. Euro-sceptics feel a strain resulting from the party's attitude towards Europe; and as a pragmatic pro-European I feel a strain in the opposite direction. Yet do we wish the Conservative Party to split in two, or suffer continued losses? That way lies disaster, not for one election but for many.

There is a way forward to unite the party, at least for those who desire it to win. Disraeli said "Trust the people". We should heed his dictum and in due time take key moves on Europe to the people to decide.

Both as the price of unity and because it is right, the Prime Minister should commit the party to a referendum before opting-in to a European currency, while at the same time restoring to his Government a pragmatically positive rhetoric and policy towards Europe.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER JACKSON,
Conservative MEP for Kent East,
1979-1994,
8 Wellmead Drive,
Sevenoaks, Kent,
December 30.

From Mr L. T. Smith

Sir, The affair of the desertion of Emma Nicholson to the Lib Dems illustrates the care that Conservative associations must exercise when choosing their candidates for Westminster.

Quite clearly this lady, burdened with middle-class guilt, was never a Conservative, not even with a small c. She will be much happier with Mr Ashdown — and so make all true Conservatives, who believe that charity begins at home, happier too.

Yours faithfully,
L. T. SMITH,
23 Markham House,
Kingswood Drive,
Bowen Drive, SE21,
December 30.

From Mrs Jan Prebble

Sir, The lack of charity and understanding shown by senior Conservatives to Emma Nicholson and expressed in terms of personal abuse towards her must have lost the Tories many votes. I feel sure that the electorate cannot tolerate a government which seeks to retain a majority by insisting that its MPs ignore their consciences and substitute hypocrisy for integrity.

Yours sincerely,
JAN PREBBLE,
905 Nelson House,
Dolphin Square, SW1,
December 31.

From Mr Joe Haines

Sir, Michael Heseltine's suggestion that Emma Nicholson would have remained loyal had she been promoted was petty, but at least it explains his appointment as Deputy Prime Minister.

Yours faithfully,
JOE HAINES,
1 South Frith,
London Road, Southborough,
Tunbridge Wells, Kent,
December 30.

Bristol's glories

From Mr George Ferguson

Sir, While Simon Jenkins is quite right in berating the setting of St Mary Redcliffe, Bristol ("The glory and the shame", December 23), he is wrong in asserting that the city lacks great buildings or community spirit. We have a fine collection of historic buildings and a strong sense of community that bridges ideological differences.

Bristol was cited by the late Sir John Summerson some forty years ago as the one English city he would show a foreigner "to give him a balanced idea of English architecture". We do, apart from many medieval churches, have great buildings by John Wood, Vanbrugh, Nash, Smirke, Cockerell, Street, Godwin, Holden and Gilbert Scott, and others by notable Bristol architects. Sadly we also have our fair share of self-inflicted wounds.

It is true that Redcliffe Way was one of the most shaming highway-planning acts of the 1960s, and remains

Electronic keyboards hit right note

From Mr Michael Eardley

Sir, Your report on electronic keyboards ("Keyboards silence piano in flight for keys to kingdom of music", December 28) serves only to show how this most useful resource is still misunderstood and undervalued. It is true that the piano is no longer a commonplace choice as an instrument, there being many equally attractive possibilities and because it tends not to figure prominently in pop music.

That many children seeking to take up an instrument choose one which has some kind of pop presence is neither unexpected nor new — witness the boom in popularity of the electric guitar since the Sixties and the growth of interest in the flute when James Galway featured in the pop charts.

Those who do choose the piano do so because of a genuine interest in it. Although its popularity is declining, the piano still provides most candidates for external music examination boards, such as Trinity College London or the Associated Board, and indications are that technical standards of playing are as good as ever, if not better.

The error, it seems to me, is to attempt to equate the electronic keyboard (not the often more highly priced digital piano, which is a dif-

ferent animal) with the acoustic piano. The electronic keyboard is not a poor substitute but a new, fast-developing instrument with its own technology, technique and repertoire.

Through much of the education system these instruments serve to introduce a broad spectrum of children to making music at an early age, teaching them something of formal notation if they wish, but most importantly offering them opportunities to create their own music with ease.

The electronic keyboard has enormous potential, from its use in pop music and education to its value in supporting more traditional musical activities such as harmony and composition. It is now recognised by examination boards, which observe and develop important trends in music education. It should not be dismissed as some kind of inferior toy but be valued, as the Director of Tonbridge School's music recommends, as a "doorway to the fun of music".

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL EARDLEY
(Director, Music and Speech Examinations),
Trinity College London,
16 Park Crescent, W1,
December 29.

Bar voting rights

From Mr Robin Spon-Smith

Sir, The controversy about voting rights in the forthcoming ballot of the Bar on a new complaints system (News in Brief, December 28; letters, December 1, 12, 18, 27) is the inevitable consequence of an absurdity.

The Bar's *raison d'être* is as a referral profession, offering specialist advisory and advocacy services to the clients of other lawyers. The concept of the "employed barrister" is wholly inconsistent with this.

The solution lies in the semi-fusion of the two branches of the legal profession. Everybody wishing to practise law should be required to qualify as a solicitor. After a suitable period in practice, and subject to an accreditation process, those who wished to do so should be allowed to practise as counsel on a referral basis.

This would create a structure for the profession which was rational and practical. It would undoubtedly mean a considerably smaller Bar than at present, but that would be no bad thing.

Yours truly,
ROBIN SPON-SMITH,
1 Mitre Court Buildings,
Temple, EC4,
December 28.

Deserving of a place

From Mr Colin MacGregor

Sir, Your page of "Anniversaries of 1996" (December 27) has a large picture of John Logie Baird, commemorating his death on June 14, 1946, and mentions the start of the BBC Third Programme on September 29, 1946. Yet on June 2, 1896, Guglielmo Marconi filed in England the first patent in the world for wireless telegraphy.

Ought not he to have had a mention, for without him the work of Baird and the existence of the Third Programme would have been impossible?

Yours faithfully,
COLIN MACGREGOR,
3 Longacre Court,
21 Mayfield Road,
Sanderstead, Surrey,
December 28.

Ashtrays à la Carlyle

From Mrs A. C. Whitmore

Sir, I was interested to read of the unusual ashtrays at The Carlyle, New York (letter, December 21).

One thing puzzles me. How does one successfully empty and clean an ashtray which is glued to a table? Is there some exclusively American technique?

Yours faithfully,
BERYL P. WHITMORE,
29 Davies Avenue,
Roundhay, Leeds, West Yorkshire,
December 21.

Charity waste

From Mr Adolphe A. Salem

Sir, Are charities defeating the object of their appeals for funds?

For some time, there has been a sharp increase in the volume of my correspondence, mainly due to a proliferation of charity appeals. I would not mind receiving these although I already contribute to a number of charities of my choosing by covenant. What I object to is the fact that many are duplicated, and one is triplicated.

I imagine that lists of potential contributors are purchased from various sources, and if by some mischance I happen to be on more than one, I am circumscribed more than once. But surely the lists are entered on the charities' computers, the least sophisticated of which would readily sort them in alphabetical order. Why are they not checked for duplication?

The waste of money this all represents makes me commit these appeals to the waste bin. I would rather contribute to charities which spend less on their administration and more on research or other good deeds.

Yours sincerely,
ADOLPHE A. SALEM,
Flat 16,
Downside,
8 St John's Avenue, SW15,
December 28.

Prison training

From Mr John Latchford

Sir, Should at least part of the responsibility for the Prison Service (letters, December 30) now move from the Home Office to the Education and Employment Department?

The public has the right to expect prisoners to be able to lead useful lives when they leave prison. The present impression is of prisons producing trained criminals who leave with no skills that are in public demand. The difficulty of finding jobs increases unemployment figures and causes reoffending.

The Education and Employment Department should publish the educational standards of offenders on entering and leaving prison. For those serving short sentences the department should be responsible for counselling prisoners in the education and training opportunities available. For those serving longer sentences these opportunities should continue in prison. Suitable work for realistic wages should be available.

It must be better (and cheaper) for prisoners to serve shorter sentences than to leave them locked away in the prison wings to corrupt each other.

As with all departments the Prison Service must be managed to deliver long-term results, not respond to party-conference propaganda.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN LATCHFORD,
225 Jersey Road,
Isleworth, Middlesex,
December 31.

Do it yourself — or let them do it?

From Mr Simon Wainman

Sir, Mr Jarrett's "self-assembly bird table" (letter, December 28) is as nothing compared to my "Guide-Nails" holder.

Opening my stocking on Christmas morning I was confronted with the following instructions:

- TO BE NO HAMMERED MORE THE FINGERS
1. Introduce the nail in one of the holes lightly inferior to the nail, which will deep firmly supported in vertical position.
2. Lead the sharp-pointed extremity of the nail stand out a little from the base of instrument to receive the nail.
3. Give some beats of hammer in the head of nail to obtain one principle of suitable placing.
4. Finish the nail after having retreated the Guide-nails by simple pressure in the two provided arms for them.

The item in question closely resembles a clothes peg.

Yours faithfully,
SIMON WAINMAN,
Upper Ashe House,
Ashe, Basingstoke, Hampshire,
December 28.

From Commander T. V. G. Binney, RN (ret)

Sir, Surely Mr Jarrett has got it wrong. The "self" in his self-assembly bird table applies not to the table in fact-fetched ideal but is directed at the birds.

Yellowhammers, woodpeckers and sandpipers should have the necessary skills but first he will have to attract them to the scene.

For this he will need a bird table.

Yours faithfully,
GILES BINNEY,
Close Cottage,
Rogate, Petersfield, Hampshire,
December 29.

MoD move

From Mr E. C. Baker

Sir, Your report (December 19) that staff starting work in the new Abbey Wood complex near Bristol are expected "to become the envy of every MoD civil servant left behind in London" will have left a bitter taste in the mouths of many of my colleagues.

We do not want to go; we have never wanted to go, nor have our views ever been considered. If we decide not to move because of family or health constraints we face the sack and unemployment.

The £25,000 quoted as relocation expenses make it sound as if we will all be winning the lottery. Once this has been passed on to estate agents, movers, solicitors, etc., London civil servants will in fact be worse off, with pay reduced by up to £3,500 and hours of work increased.

Yours etc,
E. C. BAKER,
8 Model Conages,
Vapery Lane, Fribright, Surrey,
December 18.

Signs and the times

From Miss Shelley von Strunckel

Sir, As an astrologer it is gratifying to observe the increasing interest in my field, evidenced by your series of leading articles, which began on December 23, based on the twelve signs of the Zodiac. Unfortunately, Prince William has today wrongly been transformed from a Cancer into a Gemini.

Star-sign columns list dates, but the signs do not commence conveniently at the midnight hour. Rather, because birth signs are linked to the beginning of the seasons, the date and hour the seasons commence vary from year to year. Thus, the sign Capricorn began last Friday, December 22, at the same time as the winter solstice, 8.17am GMT.

In 1982, the year of Prince William's birth, the summer solstice, and the Sun's entrance into the sign of Cancer, took place at 5.23pm GMT on June 21. Those born before that hour would have been Gemini, and after, Cancer. Thus, Prince William, born at 8.03pm GMT on June 21, 1982, in London is a Cancer.

Yours faithfully,
SHELLEY VON STRUNCKEL
(Astrologer), *The Sunday Times*,
1 Pennington Street, E1,
December 27.

On the ether

From Father Tony McSweeney

Sir, Recently I have noticed an apparent increase in advertisements for psychic fairs and the like. One question: why do they need to advertise?

Yours faithfully,
A. MCSWEENEY,
Holy Cross Parish,
Tracyes Road, Harlow, Essex.

Downwardly mobile

From Mrs Penelope Martin

Sir, Silently and unannounced, the classless society seems to have arrived. In the 1996 edition of my usual diary I notice that the birthdays of the Royal Family are no longer given; instead, there is a map of the London Underground.

Yours faithfully,
PENELOPE MARTIN,
12 Willow Road, NW3,
December 30.



COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM, NORFOLK
December 31: Divine Service was held in Sandringham Parish Church this morning. The Bishop of Norwich preached the Sermon.

Today's events

The Queen's Life Guard mounts at Horse Guards, 11am.

New Year's Day birthdays

Dr Jack Birks, company chairman, 76; Lord Colwyn, 54; Sir James Crane, former HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary, 75; Mr John Fuller, writer, 59; Lord Kingsland, QC, 54; Professor Dame June Lloyd, paediatrician, 68; Sir Albert McQuarrie, former MP, 78; Dr James Merriman, former chairman, National Computing Centre, 81; Mr James Moorhouse, MEP, 72; Colonel P.A. Porteous, VC, 78; Mrs Patricia Purdy, former president, National Council of Women of Great Britain, 67; Professor R.A. Raphael, chemist, 75; Mr Lawrence Rowe, cricketer, 47; Mr J.D. Salinger, author, 77; Lord Swansea, 71.

Appointment

Mr Noel Rice has been appointed Hospitalier of the St John Ophthalmic Hospital Jerusalem.

Anniversaries today

BIRTHS: Lorenzo de Medici (The Magnificent), Florence, 1449; Huldreich Zwingli, Swiss reformer, Wildhaus, 1484; Paul Revere, American patriot, Boston, Massachusetts, 1735; Maria Edgeworth, novelist, Blackbourton, Oxfordshire, 1767; Arthur Hugh Clough, poet, Liverpool, 1819; Sir James Frazer, anthropologist, Glasgow, 1854; Henry Handel Richardson (pen-name of Ethel Florence Lindesay), novelist, Melbourne, 1870; E.M. Forster, novelist, London, 1879; William Fox, film producer, Hungary, 1879; Martin Niemöller, anti-Nazi priest, Lippstadt, Germany, 1892; J. Edgar Hoover, founder of the FBI, Washington, 1895; H.A.R. (Kim) Philby, British double agent, Ambala, India, 1911; Jack de Manio, broadcaster, 1914.

DEATHS: William Wycherley, dramatist, London, 1716; James Francis Edward Stuart, the "Old Pretender", Rome, 1766; Johann Christian Bach, composer, London, 1782; Heinrich Hertz, physicist, Bonn, 1894; Sir Edwin Lutyens, architect, London, 1944; Maurice Chevalier, actor and singer, Paris, 1972; John Aloysius Costello, Prime Minister of Ireland 1948-51 and 1954-57, 1976.

The Daily Universal Register (renamed *The Times* on January 1, 1788), was founded, 1785. Act of Union between Great Britain and Ireland came into force, 1801.

The Commonwealth of Australia was established with Edmund Barton as the first prime minister, 1901.

Farthing ceased to be legal tender, 1961.

Britain entered the Common Market, 1973.

Latest wills

Mr John Philip Smith, of Fecit, Truro, Cornwall, former deputy managing director, British Aerospace (Hawthorne) Division, left estate valued at £166,357 net. He left his personal papers relating to the design and development of various aeroplanes to the Churchill Archives Centre, Cambridge, and his shares in British Aerospace and Hawker Siddeley to the Fellowship of Engineering.

Helen Moore, of Penrith, Cumbria, Matron-in-Chief, Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service, 1939-62, left estate valued at £27,067 net.

She left £15,000 to the National Trust, Professor Sir David Waldron Smithers, of Knockholt, Kent, Emeritus Professor of Radiotherapy in the University of London and former director of the Radiotherapy Department at the Royal Marsden Hospital, left estate valued at £267,036 net.

Mr Kenneth Charles McKenna, of Darlington, Co Durham, the surgeon in oesophageal surgery who established the McKenna Medal of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh awarded annually to the principal lecturer at the college autumn meeting, left estate valued at £1,001,718 net.

Mr Douglas Heyworth Robinson, of Alburgh, Suffolk, former editor of the *Journal of the Royal Agricultural Society of England*, and regional director of the National Agricultural Advisory Service for the West Midlands, left estate valued at £305,519 net.

He left £500 each to the Common Hospice, Wolverhampton, and the Distressed Gentlefolk Aid Association.

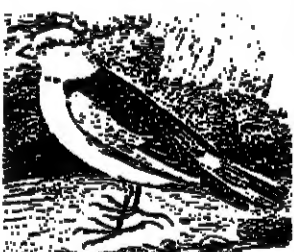
Other estates include (net, before tax):

Mr Peter Robin Catforth, of Ambleside, Cumbria, 1992, £68.

Mr Erwin Elkes, of Saumundham, Suffolk, 1994, £94,361.

Nature notes

THE severe weather drove many birds south. Large flocks of golden plovers, lapwings, fieldfares and redwings were seen heading for parts of the country free of snow. In the Scottish mountains, red grouse burrowed in the snow for heather seeds, while snow buntings moved up to high, wind-swept crags where the snow was thin and there was a chance of finding grass seeds.



The snow bunting

Small birds can survive hard frosts provided they have enough food for them to keep up their body temperature through the night. The abundance of berries this winter, especially on the hawthorns, helped blackbirds and thrushes through the days when the ground was frozen and worms were impossible to reach. For greenfinches, there was a good harvest of hornbeam seeds.

Small insect-eating birds such as wrens and goldcrests

were the most vulnerable, especially when the twigs and buds were covered with ice, and there are bound to have been deaths among these. When huddles together at night to keep warm, sometimes in old nests. Pied wagtails go down to rivers and patrol the edges, looking for tiny insects that have been washed up. Sparrow hawks thrive on enfeebled birds, and foxes find hungry rabbits an easy prey.

DJM



Prince Harry gallantly helps to keep the rain off his grandmother and great-grandmother as they walked together to Sandringham Parish Church for morning service yesterday

Royal Air Force promotions

Half yearly promotions

The Ministry of Defence announces the following RAF promotions all effective from today:

Air Rank promotions

Air Commodore to Air Vice-Marshal:
J C French; B C McCandless; M Van der Voort; M D Smart.

Group Captain to Air Commodore:
D C Andrews; L A Doble; J H Haines; N I Hamilton; J F Jeffers; D K Norris; B J Poulton; T W Rimmer; P J Scott; G J Woodley; R E O Johnson; C R Fowler.

General Duties Branch

Wing Commander to Group Captain:
P A Barrett; P C Bingham; R F Burroughs; A Campbell; D S Griggs; I S Hall; R J Hounslow; A J Lockwood; B G McLaren; D M Moss; J C Platt; J W Thorpe; F L Turner; S A Wrigley.

Squadron Leader to Wing Commander

C M I Barker; J A Barratt; D R Bolsover; I C Burnett; A Cameron; D J Cleland-Smith; M P Colley; J E Coote; D S Davenall; A J Day; R J Dunsford; J A Goodhouse; M C Green; J A Hill; P M Kelly; R Lock; D R Mason; K H Maxwell; R J A Powell; S Randless; F D Ryall; G M

Stapleton; K K Thomson; M D Wyle.

Flight Lieutenant to Squadron Leader

R M Alchome; N R Benson; P S Boydland; N H Brady; E S Brannan; M J Broome; G B Brown; D N Cass; J M Cass; S Chiddister; N A Cobb; P K Comer; B T Connolly; A Coy; S C Evans; R J Floyd; S I Richards; S Richardson; P M Riches; P J Roberts; R C Rose; P J Smyth; D A Storey; D M Sutcliffe; M C Sutton; A N Thorogood; L J Trank; S C Turner; C J Wesley.

General Duties (Ground) Branch

Wing Commander to Group Captain:
B T Dingle; M J Fuller; N J Pearson.

Squadron Leader to Wing Commander

A J Clare; J A Colgate; N H M Finely; N J Gordon; V Thompson; C C Trundle; D J Walker; R A W Wilkins.

Flight Lieutenant to Squadron Leader

D Barber; P C Brown; A S Corbett; P H Gibbs; S Johnson; A D Maynard; M A Morton; C I Oldfield; D W Raine; L M Reid; C Taylor; K S Thompson; S R Thornburn; M Totman.

Engineer Branch

Wing Commander to Group Captain:
N A Balfour; J P Chitty; C W Ness; W S Rooms.

Squadron Leader to Wing Commander

P M D Brown; P T Coleman; R L Gille; S A Griffin; S S Kent; R A Laybourn; J A H Sharp; J A J Sheller; B J Stokes; D J Tait; A J Ward; D A Ward; M Welburn; A L Wilson; J A Young.

Flight Lieutenant to Squadron Leader

P D Annal; A P R Box; A J Conant; S J Edmondson; B R Evans; D Evans; M Gibson; P J Grimsdell; T J Guy; R J Hargrave; M H Hobbs; M G Howitt; A K Johnston; T M Maher; A P March; P J R McGeough; M McMillan; N Murray; N J Phillips; S M Russell; T N Turner; C L Walder; S R Wilkinson; H L Wray.

Supply Branch

Wing Commander to Group Captain:
C A Gardner; N S Morris; R J Topp.

Squadron Leader to Wing Commander

S P Atherton; R J Kennet; A T B Wilkinson.

Flight Lieutenant to Squadron Leader

P G Cook; B L Crab; H V Firth; S P Fletcher; T A Henderson; P Hing; K S Jones; R J O'Keefe; S J Rose; P J Serrell Cook.

Administrative Branch

Wing Commander to Group Captain:
P J Hilling; B J Justice; P J Lewis; D J Pooch.

Squadron Leader to Wing Commander

R A J Castle; R E V Clark; J M Cruickshank; P J Hughesdon; R K Jones; J P Maynes; A F Monish; D P Murray; P Rooney; C F Shaw; R Shields; E Wyn-Jones.

Flight Lieutenant to Squadron Leader

J Boston; D J Bowles; L Calvey; T G Collett; S J Crowder; H Flatt; M Garwood; J Good; A A Gough; M D Heffron; S C Hermon; P J Mahoney; C J McKenna; C Montellier; A S Nicholson; R C Read; N J Roberts; K Selway; D M Smith; S J Spence; J W Stanfield; G Stewart; A Walker; M J Weight; D J York.

Security Branch

Wing Commander to Group Captain:
C R Morgan.

Squadron Leader to Wing Commander

K R Dippier; P A M Kennedy; N Maguire.

Flight Lieutenant to Squadron Leader

N Bray; R E Coombes; R A Highmore; A Slater; W S Taylor.

Dental Branch

Group Captain to Air Commodore:
I G McIntyre.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr M.J. Brennan and Miss L.H. Stepan

The engagement is announced between Michael, only son of Mr and Mrs John Brennan, of Conisbrough, Doncaster, and Lucy Henrietta, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Stepan, of Northwick House, Hampton Wick.

Dr S.W.A. Cannon-Brookes and Miss O.S. Galkovich

The engagement is announced between Stephen, only son of Dr and Mrs Peter Cannon-Brookes, of Abingdon, Oxfordshire, and Olga Svetoslavna, only daughter of Mr S. and Dr T. Galkovich, of St Petersburg, Russia.

Mr W.J. de Vaux and Miss S.E. McQuiggin

The engagement is announced between Liam, son of Mrs Patricia de Vaux, of London, and Sarah, daughter of Mr John McQuiggin, MBE, and Mrs McQuiggin, of Bickley, Kent.

Mr J.L. Little and Miss K. Chandler

The engagement is announced between Justin, only son of Mr and Mrs Brian Little, of Dartford, Kent, and Kate, only daughter of Mrs Diane Chandler, of Epping, Essex.

Mr A.L.G. Millington and Miss S.J. Orwin

The engagement is announced between Alex, son of Mr and Mrs J.G. Millington, of Brockworth, Gloucestershire, and Sarah, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs G.M. Orwin, of East Grinstead, West Sussex.

Mr D.R. Naylor and Miss L.J. Nathan

The engagement is announced between David, elder son of Mr P.R. and Dr D.L.R. Naylor, of Nottingham, and Lisa, younger daughter of Mrs L. Nathan, of Harrow.

Mr J.H. van Oppen and Miss A.C. Odono

The engagement is announced between James, elder son of Mr and Mrs Martin van Oppen, of Medbourne, Leicestershire, and Annabel, daughter of Mr Tim Odono, of Kimpston, Hampshire, and the late Mrs Ann Odono.

Mr A.M. Linton and Miss T.M. Willmott

The engagement is announced between Adam, younger son of Mr and Mrs John Linton, of New Town, Edinburgh, and Tessa, daughter of Mr John Willmott, of St Peterport, Guernsey, and Mrs Jo McConville, of Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire.

Mr A.J. Moran and Miss J.M. Puley

The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of the late Mr Joseph Moran, QC, CB, and of Mrs Margaret Moran, of Wimbledon, London, and Jessica, elder daughter of the late Mr George Puley and of Lady Harman, of Chelsea, London.

Mr D.M. Soper and Miss H. Bown

The engagement is announced between David Michael, younger son of Mr and Mrs Robert Arthur Soper, of Queen Camel, Somerset, and Helen, only daughter of Mr Gordon George Bown, of Middle Chinnock, Somerset, and Mrs Joyce Read, of Wincanton, Somerset.

Mr O.A.C. Watson and Miss A.J. Scott

The engagement is announced between Oliver, elder son of Mr Jeremy Watson, of Pollensa, Mallorca, and Mrs Felicity Clover, of Broadwood, Devon, and Annabel, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Donald Scott, of Cobham, Surrey.

Mr J.N. Wilkins and Dr M.J. Hatten

The engagement is announced between John, only son of the late Mr Norris Wilkins and of Mrs A.F. Wilkins, of Ravenhead, Nottingham, and Marina, only daughter of Mr and Mrs John Charles Hatten, of Bretherton, Suffolk.

Mr R.D. Wootton and Miss S.J. Selous

The engagement is announced between Robin, younger son of the late Mr and Mrs A.G. Wootton, of Wexham, Arundel, Sussex, and Sarah Jane, daughter of Commander G.M.B. Selous, OBE, VRD, JP, of Langley Grange, Norfolk, and the late Mrs Miranda Selous, of Chobham, Surrey.

Siege weapons began biological warfare

By NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

ONE of the most potent siege weapons of ancient times is now known to have helped Arab armies conquer the Middle East and North Africa 1,300 years ago. Long thought to have arrived from China only in the Middle Ages, the trebuchet "was known in Arabia and used to great effect by the Islamic armies", according to Dr Paul Chevedden.

The trebuchet was a successor to the catapult, itself a mechanism of the bow, but where the catapult drew its energy from the elasticity of twisted ropes or sinews, the trebuchet used the force of gravity, with or without human aid.

The weapon consisted of a long pivoted arm. Traction was supplied at one end, initially by men pulling on ropes, later by a fixed or hinged counterweight; at the other end was a sling holding the projectile, which would fly free at the top of the arc described by the swivelling arm.

The most commonly used heavy catapults in antiquity threw a rock of up to 27kg (60lb), with a range of 160 metres. The most powerful trebuchets, however, could throw a ton or more. The working reconstruction built by Hew Kennedy and Richard Barr at Shroton and shown on television throws missiles with ease from its 60ft arm and has even tossed a small car more than 200ft.

This devastating siege engine seems to have been invented in China late in the Warring States period, just

prior to the unification of China under Qin Shi Huang Di, the first emperor. In the third century BC, Dr Chevedden's work has shown that the trebuchet reached the east Mediterranean before AD 600, and was instrumental in the rapid expansion of the Arab empire between AD 624 and 656.

"It displaced other forms of artillery and held its own until well after the coming of gunpowder," he and three colleagues report in *Scientific American*.

The Islamic technical literature has been neglected, but a treatise by Yusuf ibn Urrunbugha al-Zaradkash written in 1462 provides amazingly detailed construction and operating specifications, with numerous illustrations, offering "a unique insight into the applied mechanics of premodern societies", they note.

They have used computer simulations to recover design principles lost for centuries, they claim. These include the sophisticated use of hinged and propped counterweights to increase the efficiency with which the trebuchet converted gravity to projectile motion. The efficiency of the device is shown by a Danish reconstruction that clustered shots within a six-metre square at 180 metres range.

At the siege of Kaffa in the Crimea in 1345-6, the Mongols used them offensively, to hurl plague-ridden corpses into the city. Thus the Black Death came to Europe, and biological warfare was born.

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

BMD'S: 0171 782 7272
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

Was behind the rebellion called...
...the Lord of my...
...the Lord of my...
...the Lord of my...

DEATHS

FRANK - Deane (late...
...the Lord of my...
...the Lord of my...
...the Lord of my...

WILLIAM - On December...
...the Lord of my...
...the Lord of my...
...the Lord of my...

MORRELL - On 17th...
...the Lord of my...
...the Lord of my...
...the Lord of my...

REID - On 23rd December...
...the Lord of my...
...the Lord of my...
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REID - On 23rd December...
...the Lord of my...
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DEATHS

ARNOLD - Arthur Philip...
...the Lord of my...
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Navy on patrol as Spanish boats fish

Spanish Navy patrol boats will be on the lookout for illegal fishing vessels in the waters off the Canary Islands, the Ministry of Defence has announced. The navy will be patrolling the waters off the Canary Islands, the Ministry of Defence has announced. The navy will be patrolling the waters off the Canary Islands, the Ministry of Defence has announced.

Stabbing charges

Police have charged a 22-year-old man with 10 attempted murders after he was found with a knife in his hand. The man, who is named as [Name], was charged with 10 attempted murders after he was found with a knife in his hand.

Coach ban starts

Coaches will be banned from taking more than 10 passengers on a single journey. The ban will start on January 1, 1996. Coaches will be banned from taking more than 10 passengers on a single journey.

Chess prodigy

Little Mirza, a chess prodigy, has won the title of World Chess Champion. He is the youngest player to ever win the title. Little Mirza, a chess prodigy, has won the title of World Chess Champion.

Passengers hurt

Three passengers were injured when a train derailed in the north of England. The train was carrying passengers from London to Manchester. Three passengers were injured when a train derailed in the north of England.

State security

A high-ranking official has been charged with leaking state secrets. The official, who is named as [Name], was charged with leaking state secrets. A high-ranking official has been charged with leaking state secrets.

Lovers can claim

A couple has been allowed to claim a portion of the husband's estate. The couple, who are named as [Names], were allowed to claim a portion of the husband's estate. A couple has been allowed to claim a portion of the husband's estate.

OBITUARIES

PROFESSOR SIR WILLIAM TRETHOWAN

Professor Sir William Trethowan, CBE, Professor of Psychiatry, 1962-82, and Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, 1968-74, University of Birmingham, died on December 15 aged 78. He was born on June 3, 1917.

WILLIAM TRETHOWAN was in his prime during an era when governments actively sought, and often accepted, the advice of the medical profession on the development of policies for health and health services.

When he took up the Chair of Psychiatry at the University of Sydney in 1956, he found conditions in the mental hospitals to be, in his word, appalling. He rewrote the Mental Health Act virtually single-handed. In six years he persuaded the state Health Department to embark on a wide-ranging programme of service development that were long overdue, and took part in much of the planning; at the same time attending to a busy personal clinical practice and the teaching needs of 180 medical students. He also found time for music, his lifelong passion.

In his early years in Birmingham he passed through that mysterious process of emergence, the instinctive recognition by his peers of some special quality which a written list of virtues might not have revealed. Almost imperceptibly he appeared on all the important medical school committees, quickly spreading his right to embrace the Regional Hospital Board and, later, a number of national and other advisory bodies.

His appointment as Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry coincided with the student unrest that was widespread throughout Europe. Legend has it that he repelled an angry horde on the steps of the medical school simply by his imposing presence and the use of two words — both short.

He had an excellent feel for the

complex relations that exist between academic medicine and the NHS and some of his most important contributions as Dean were at this interface. His time on the Regional Hospital Board, and later Regional Health Authority, coincided with the development of district general hospitals, which he realised would be important for undergraduate teaching as well as for service. Decisions in the NHS in those days were reached more easily — or at least more quickly. Trethowan would later fondly recall the weekly meetings between the Dean and the Regional Medical Officer after which "things just happened".

His appointment to national bodies followed naturally. Consultant Adviser in Psychiatry to the DHSS; chairman of the Standing Mental Health Advisory Committee, Standing Medical Advisory Committee and Central Health Services Council. The membership of the latter body included both medical and other health professionals in equal numbers, and was a recognition that clinical care was increasingly dependent on team work. Trethowan was exactly the right man to bring together proud professionals of independent view and lead them, not to a watered down consensus, but to a conviction as to the best way forward.

William Henry Trethowan, known to his friends as Bill, was born into a Cornish family that had medical connections on both sides over several generations. His father was a surgeon at Guy's Hospital. His mother, turning in her widowhood to medicine, studied at the Royal Free Hospital Medical School and qualified as a doctor on the same day as her son.

Trethowan's time at Clare College, Cambridge, and at Guy's Hospital was marked more by fun than by work. He led his own orchestra, The Arimethians, on trumpet, and directing the music of The Footlights. A highlight was the broadcast by the BBC of *Little Miss Rosalind*, a



musical comedy based on *As You Like It*, with music written by Trethowan, which received enthusiastic reviews in the national press. Trethowan trained in psychiatry at the Maudsley Hospital and spent a period in Boston as a Fulbright Scholar, before becoming first lecturer, and later senior lecturer, at the University of Manchester. He was a first-class clinician whose approach to psychiatry was eclectic. Throughout his professional life he was an encourager of others, and several of his juniors went on to high academic positions. His own research output was relatively modest and concentrated on rare conditions.

VISCOUNT ASHBROOK



Viscount Ashbrook, KCVO, MBE, farmer and landowner, died on December 5 aged 90. He was born on July 9, 1905.

developments. He instituted an extensive drainage system and modernised many of the estate buildings. A number of new buildings were also erected, including one of the earliest (moving circular) milking parlours for the distinguished herd of pedigree Guernseys which Ashbrook built up after the war — this herd was later replaced by one of Friesians.

DESMOND FLOWER, who succeeded to his Irish title as the 10th Viscount Ashbrook in 1936, made a major contribution to the development of Cheshire agriculture after the Second World War. He played a full part in the public life of the county, of which he served as a Deputy Lieutenant, and helped to preserve the ancient estate of Arley as an important part of its heritage.

Desmond Flower had a rural upbringing, spending his early years at his family home at Castle Durrus, Ireland. But, having read history at Balliol College, Oxford, he trained as a chartered accountant and went to work in the City of London. However, this was not to last for long. He volunteered in 1938 for the TA and with the outbreak of war served in France in the 5th Battalion of the Cheshire Regiment and in the Royal Artillery — for which he was awarded the MBE (mill) in 1945.

After the war, he decided not to return to accountancy but to devote himself instead to the management of the estate at Arley, the ancestral home of his wife Elizabeth Egerton-Warburton, whom he had married in 1934.

Exact conditions prevailed in British agriculture during the 1940s and 1950s. There was continual pressure to increase home food production in order to minimise reliance on imports. Ashbrook strove to ensure that Arley was at the forefront of modern

developments. He instituted an extensive drainage system and modernised many of the estate buildings. A number of new buildings were also erected, including one of the earliest (moving circular) milking parlours for the distinguished herd of pedigree Guernseys which Ashbrook built up after the war — this herd was later replaced by one of Friesians.

In the 1960s Arley became an ICI-owned farm. One of the objectives of this scheme was to maximise the use of conserved grass — grass being the best natural crop of Cheshire — as a feed for cattle, thereby reducing the reliance on concentrates. Ashbrook co-operated extensively with ICI.

He also took a great interest in the development of forestry at Arley as well as helping his wife in the restoration and improvement of the magnificent gardens which were opened to the public in 1960.

Ashbrook was chairman of the Agricultural Executive Committee for Cheshire — a government-appointed body which had powers to regulate farmers in the interests of good husbandry and improved food production. He was also an active member of the Country Landowners' Association representing Cheshire on its council in London.

From 1957 to 1977 he was a member of the Council of the Duchy of Lancaster helping to supervise their extensive estates and to reorganise their accountancy systems. He was appointed KCVO in 1977 in recognition of this work.

Lord Ashbrook is survived by his wife Elizabeth, and a son and daughter. His son Michael now becomes the 11th Viscount.

BRIAN BROCKLESS

Brian Brockless, organist, conductor and composer, died on December 18 aged 69. He was born on January 21, 1926.



BRIAN BROCKLESS, Director of Music at the Priory Church of St Bartholomew-the-Great, Smithfield, was a musician, who shunned the type of personal limelight so sought after nowadays. Hearing *Byrd's Great Service* sung by his Priory Choir in the church he loved so well was, however, an unforgettable experience — because his understanding of the music was not cold or sterile but warm and passionate. He was a profound musical scholar and an inspiring choral trainer.

His annual Easter performance of Bach's *St John Passion* became famous for the right musical reasons. His musical knowledge was allied to good taste as an interpreter. His choristers were inspired by his civilising obsession with the music. Brockless was a virtuoso organist and a superbly accomplished pianist. Abbey Records made two LP records of the Priory Church Choir.

Brian Brockless was born in London, the son of an amateur hornist and baritone. His sister Pauline was a fine contralto singer — principally in oratorio during the late 1940s and early 1950s. Sir Malcolm Sargent admired her artistry and engaged her as a soloist more than once in the penultimate concert of the Promenade season.

Brockless's uncle was his first music teacher but he was also mindful of his father's teaching and adjudications at local eisteddfods. It was this background which made him determined to encourage music-making.

Under the National Service Acts he was directed to become a "Bevin Boy", working in the coal mines. In fact, because the war had ended, he was never drafted into the mines but instead enrolled at the Royal College of Music, studying organ and composition

under Herbert Howells. A significant part of his musical expression, however, lay in singing. As a counter-tenor he sang with several fine choirs, including the first Elizabethan Singers, with the Schola Polytonica, and in *Pro Cantione Antiqua* under Henry Wood at Brampton Oratory.

In 1961 Brockless succeeded Paul Steinitz as Director of Music at the Priory Church of St Bartholomew-the-Great, Smithfield. He stayed until the pressure of other work led him to resign in 1971. But in 1979 he was reappointed and remained there for the rest of his life.

The ambience of the church seemed perfect for great music, and even the simplest melodic intonation or recessionary chant could enthral. During

Brockless's long directorship, he widened the choir's repertoire, with his adult singers annually giving cycles of complete, always of a remarkable range and performed with verve. In addition to renderings of the *Messiah* or the *St John Passion*, the Priory Festival Choir sang Fauré, Purcell, Victoria, Buxtehude, Copland and Poulenc. Brockless also arranged lunchtime recitals.

For twenty years he was a part-time professor at the Royal Academy of Music and was made an honorary member of the RAM. For several years he was a director, subsequently senior lecturer, at the University of Surrey, as well as running evening classes at Goldsmiths' College and at Morley College. He himself was much in demand as a

conductor. As early as 1963 he won the Conducting Award at the Academia Musicale at Siena. His later career took in concerts with the New English Singers, with the London Schubert Orchestra (including an Italian tour), the ECO, the Northern Sinfonia, the RPO, and the Philomusica of London.

Brockless's compositions include an affecting *Elegy* for string orchestra, *Three Poems of Shelley* for contralto and piano, a *Missa Brevis*, at least six choral anthems, an *Introit*, *Magnificat*, and *Nunc Dimittis*, together with a *Toccata Upon Tallier's Twelfth Tune*, a toccata commissioned for performance in Peterborough Cathedral's Organ Week in July 1982; and an *Introduction*, *Passacaglia* and *Coda* commissioned for performance in Westminster Abbey. These and other works have been widely performed abroad.

His personality was endearing, the face lean as his body, filled with intelligence and lined by deep emotional experiences. Personally a *bon viveur*, Brockless could be highly entertaining as a raconteur and mimic. But, more seriously, he was a shrewd judge of human character and potential. Despite his talents, his happiness with his second wife and his delight and pride in his two sons — both fine musicians like their father — he frequently remarked in periods of depression that he felt "finished" (he was due to retire last month).

In a man of his intense musical activity, such an admission may have signalled the burn-out his admirers had long feared. But his musician's life will have left its mark. The music of the Renaissance he loved more than that of any other age. To all his friends he was the embodiment of Renaissance man.

Brian Brockless married, first, in 1950 Muriel Jones, by whom he had one son. This marriage was dissolved in 1974. He married, secondly, in 1978, Jennifer Wright, by whom he also had a son. She and his sons survive him.

WOYTEK LOWSKI

Woytek Lowski, dancer and ballet master, died in Warsaw of an AIDS-related illness on November 24, aged 56. He was born in Brzezno on October 11, 1939.

WOYTEK LOWSKI began to take dancing lessons as a 13-year-old in Warsaw because he wanted to become an actor and thought it would be helpful to move well. Later he studied with Leon Wozniowski, a former star of the Diaghilev, Ravlova and de Basil Ballet Russe companies, who was then directing the Warsaw Opera Ballet. Lowski joined the company in 1958, aged 18. But it was not then at the highest level and Lowski was fired with ambition to progress further when he saw performances and films by Russian dancers.

Managing to secure a government scholarship, the young man undertook two further years of study at the Vaganova School, Leningrad, where his teacher was Alexander Pushkin (whose pupils had also included Nureyev and Baryshnikov). Lowski took part in the school's regular performances and also danced the "peasant pas de deux" in *Giselle* for the Kirov Ballet, with Natalia Makarova and Yuri Soloviev in the leading roles.

Back with the Warsaw Ballet as a soloist, he submitted himself in 1964 for the first international ballet competition in Varna, Bulgaria, and won a silver medal against very stiff opposition: the men's gold medal was shared between Vladimir Vassiliev (also grand prize), Nikita Dolgushin and Sergei Vankov, already principal dancers of the Bolshoi and Kirov companies.

This success made Lowski known outside Poland and in 1966 Maurice Béjart asked him to join his Ballet of the Twentieth Century. These were the days of the Iron Curtain but the Polish Ministry of Culture gave consent for Lowski to accept. His five years there included roles in *Romeo and Juliet* (as Tybalt),

Baudelaire, Actus Tragicus and *Ni fleurs, ni couronnes*, which was Béjart's variation on choreographic themes from *The Sleeping Beauty*.

Blessed with a powerful but elegant physique and exceptionally handsome features, Lowski could have relied on his looks and his strong technique for success but he never lost his early interest in acting, and said later that from Béjart he had learnt to go beyond virtuoso steps "to move the public make them laugh, touch them, unnerve them, make them think".

There followed two years with Roland Petit's *Marselles Ballet*, where he found special satisfaction in a role made for him as the bird of the Revolution in *Mayakovsky*. In 1973 he was invited to join the Boston Ballet, where (apart from guest engagements in Warsaw and South Africa) he remained until 1979. There his repertoire included *Carmina Burana* and the title part in *Bamir*, both with choreography by Lorenzo Monreal, besides *Giselle* and *Agnes de Mille's Fall River Legend*.

When arthritis, following a hip injury, put an early end to Lowski's dancing career, he turned to teaching and revealed a notable flair, thanks to his intelligent analysis of what he had learnt from widely different sources in Russia, Europe and America. Balanchine's School of American Ballet in New York was among the institutions where he worked, and he was guest teacher with many leading ballet companies (Paris, Rome, Berlin, Rio de Janeiro, Hamburg among others) before becoming ballet master to the American Ballet Theatre under Baryshnikov's direction, 1982-84, and the Royal Ballet of Flanders under Valery Panov's leadership.

Both the Royal Ballet and English National Ballet brought him to England as a guest teacher before the latter company appointed him ballet master in 1988, a post he held until recently when he returned to his native land as his illness became severe.

NEW YEAR'S DAY

THE NEW YEAR again finds THE TIMES by far the highest in circulation of any Morning Paper, and full of acknowledgment and gratitude to the PUBLIC for their liberal support of it. The Proprietors believe they cannot make a promise more agreeable to their Subscribers, than by assuring them that the Paper shall continue to support the same principles and conduct it has ever done; by bearing a firm and steady attachment to the KING and CONSTITUTION; by giving an honorable support to his Majesty's Ministers; and by descending on public affairs with candour and moderation, neither offending those in power by fulsome panegyric, nor libelling those who are in opposition to them by foul calumny and abuse. Regulated by these sentiments, possessing the best and most certain means of procuring information, both foreign and domestic, and assisted by the talents of those who can write for the amusement of the gay, the information of the serious, and the instruction of all, we feel no apprehension of losing that patronage we have so long and pre-eminently enjoyed.

On reviewing the occurrences of last year, we observe with sincere satisfaction, that the present commences under auspices far more favourable than those which marked the beginning of the year 1795; and that a reasonable prospect is now held out to us, that, before the close of the present year, peace and tranquillity will be restored to

ON THIS DAY

January 1, 1796

The writer's hopes that 1796 would be a year of peace were not realized: Pitt's negotiations with France broke down; France invaded Germany; Spain declared war on Britain and in December the French made an abortive invasion at Bantry Bay. The Times had a bad new year: its commanding circulation of about 4,500 in 1795 fell.

Europe, which pants for it with anxious fondness and desire. At the commencement of 1795, we saw the French victorious all along the Rhine, successfully invade Holland; devastate Belgium and the Electorate; recapture Valenciennes; take Maastricht, Luxembourg, and many other fortresses, which had baffled the boldest efforts of Louis XIV, and defeated the towering projects of that powerful and ambitious Monarch. It was very doubtful at that period, whether Germany would be able to avoid the yoke with which it was threatened by those new tyrants, who carried every where an iron sceptre, decorated with the delusive emblems of liberty.

Every thing now wears a quite different aspect. Those lofty Republicans have sunk under their own triumphs. The embers with which they crossed that famous river which forms the bulwark of ancient Germany, has brought on them defeats and disasters, the consequences of which it is impossible to calculate.

If from the theatre of war we proceed into the interior of the Republic, we perceive a new Government cemented with French blood; organized in open contempt of that very constitution which is to bring it into action; adopting the most venal measures, and committing the most scandalous encroachments on the rights of property; rescuing all the fundamental principles and forms of the reign of terror, which marked the revolution with the most enormous horrors under the reign of Robespierre.

On the contrary, we cast our looks on this happy island, we here find a vigorous Government, gathering increased strength from the very storms which the French democracy endeavours to draw around it. We see a Legislative Body closely united with Administration for the purpose of checking factious men, and of preserving unimpeded that glorious Constitution, which is deservedly the admiration of Europe, and forms the glory of Great Britain. Seditions meetings are suppressed; lawful assemblies are regulated; the national credit rises in proportion as that of our enemies sinks into ruin; commerce and secure our trade, and opens new channels of commerce.

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